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AGRI-NEWS

April 1, 1991

For immediate release

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Herbicide, deferred grazing can improve native range

A five-year Farming for the Future project has given Alberta ranchers a new approach for improving native ranges.

The problem with many native ranges in southern Alberta says Allen Toly, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in High River, is a combination of drought and over-grazing. "Between drought and economics, people were putting more cattle on the same amount of land," he says. As a result, forbs and shrubs replaced grass.

Lighter stocking rates and delayed grazing can gradually improve the grass, but both take time. "Herbicide application is another option, but until this project, the effects of spraying fescue rangeland here hadn't been well documented or demonstrated," he says.

Time is a factor whatever the approach. Recovery from long-term damage is also long term Toly says. "This project was to see if the native grass could rebound faster than if you just waited for the recovery."

Toly was one of the demonstration project's three co-ordinators. The other two were Bob Wroe, Alberta Agriculture supervisor of range management, and Barry Adams, a Lethbridge regional range manager with Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. The farmer co-operator was Cecil Longson.

The project started in 1986 on 160 acres of native prairie rangeland in the foothills 20 miles southwest of High River. It's goal was to improve forage production by reducing the competition--through spraying herbicides and deferred grazing--native grasses had from forbs and shrubs.

Different herbicides and application rates were used. They included Tordon 101 (by special permit), Banvel, Desermone 7 and 2,4-D. The herbicides reduced the growth of forbs such as sage, goldenrod, crocus and alum root and shrubs such as roses and western snowberry. Untreated checks separated each herbicide treated strip.

The results, say Toly, are encouraging despite two very dry years--1987 and 1988--during the project. Originally rated in low fair condition, the herbicide treated strips in the pasture improved.

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Herbicide, deferred grazing can improve native range (cont'd)

In 1990, the affects of the herbicides applied four years earlier were still apparent. All the treated strips had larger grass yields than the untreated strips, averaging 1274 lbs./ac. versus 841 lbs./ac. in the check strips.

"This was a 33 per cent difference, or improvement. Assuming that the improved forage production will continue, and allowing 50 per cent of this extra grass yield as a carryover, then by 1990 there was an extra 216 lb./ac. of grass on the treated strips," he says. In the previous dry years there was no significant difference in grass yield between the treated and untreated strips.

Actual grass production, forbs and shrubs weren't just eye-balled. They were measured from randomly selected clippings using statistically proven techniques he adds.

What the average yield means to the beef producer is better production and better profit says Toly. A cow/calf pair requires approximately 26 pounds of forage dry matter daily. A calf averaging a 2.2 pound daily gain and eventually selling for a $1/lb., means the value of beef produced on the increased grass production was $18.27 per acre.

Deferred grazing was also an important component of the project he notes. Farm co-operator Longson deferred grazing until August when the grass had reached its full growth. "A real key to help the pasture recover is to avoid early grazing. If the animals are out too early, they clip off the plant before it can be rejuvenated."

Native range is good grass, but sensitive and requires careful management, says Toly. He emphasizes the herbicide and deferred grazing must be used in combination with other principles of good range management.

Anyone interested in the research report, can contact Toly in High River at 652-8302, Wroe in Lacombe at 782-4641 or Adams in Lethbridge at 381-5486.

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Contact: Alan Toly 652-8302
Bob Wroe 782-4641
Barry Adams 381-5486

April 1, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Grain Commission prices move to Agri-Net

The Alberta Grain Commission prices will be available on Agri-Net starting April 2.

The new system replaces a toll-free line the commission has used since 1975 to provide farmers, agribusinesses and radio stations with grain and oilseed price information says Gisele Magnusson.

Through the new system, the commission will have three separate messages. An "elevator bids" message will include the country buying prices, various canola prices, Thunder Bay cash prices and forward delivery contract prices.

The "Winnipeg futures" message will include quotations for the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, as well as quotations for the Chicago Board of Trade and the Canada-U.S. exchange rate.

Both these messages will be updated twice daily, once at 9:15 a.m. and again at 12:45 p.m. The updates will be placed on the Edmonton and Calgary systems first and then sent to the rest of the province.

The "feedmill prices" message will be updated weekly on Monday afternoon. It includes quotes for feed wheat, barley and oats for seven Alberta centres.

"The Alberta Grain Commission has moved to Agri-Net in hopes of improving service to the farmers of Alberta. It provides a greater number of phone lines, along with a variety of marketing information at one number," says Magnusson.

The Agri-Net Information Association is a non-profit organization funded by producers, farm and agribusiness organizations, and government agencies. Currently there are 16 Agri-Net locations. They are: Brooks, 362-4137; Calgary, 295-9044; Camrose, 672-9707; Claresholm, 625-3557; Coronation, 578-3260; Edmonton, 436-7608; Fairview, 835-3333; Grande Prairie, 538-5285; Lethbridge, 320-9639; Medicine Hat, 529-6681; Olds, 556-6066; Pincher Creek, 627-5688; Ponoka, 783-5150; Red Deer, 341-4780; Vermilion, 853-2810; and, Westlock, 329-6409.

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Contact: Gisele Magnusson
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Use strategic management to run the farm

Caught up in the daily demands of farm work, some farmers feel as if the farm is directing their lives and they aren't running the farm.

Management consultants Jim Graham and Laura Palmer offered strategic management as a way for the farmer to turn the tables and take control. At two 1991 Managing Agriculture for Profit conference sessions, the Graham-Palmer team took participants through both the "soft" personal factors and "hard" market information that are part of strategic planning.

Examining personal values that define an individual's goals starts the process, or as they billed their session "finding direction in turbulent times". That approach is different from some methods, says Graham a faculty of management professor at the University of Calgary, but emphasizes understanding goals--personal and business--before starting to plan how to reach them.

"It's important to write down those goals so they're not so fuzzy," says Palmer. Setting goals, planning how to reach them and making decisions along the way takes time. "It could be a lifetime process, especially if your goal is to have your son take over the farm. You won't work through it in a hour and half," she added referring to the length of a conference session.

The individual-based factors in the strategic planning framework start with assessing personal values, then personal goals, associated organizational goals, road blocks to those goals and specific strategies to overcome the road blocks including the how and who. The last links are measuring progress and making adjustments. "None of the steps work in isolation," Graham stresses. Although the whole process is ongoing, the final steps may be the most critical part of the process, he says. Palmer agrees, and says without evaluation, there's no point in having a plan.

On the other side of the framework are the organization factors. First, the farmer or farm team must analyze their market, their company, their competition, then summarize their strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

(Cont'd)

Use strategic management to run the farm (cont'd)

From the assessment of strengths and weaknesses, the farm operator or operators can select their target market, look at their position compared to competition and then look at market, production, personnel and information strategies.

These organizational goals and plans, together with the same personal factors, form the groundwork to move ahead, or the strategic plan.

"A strategy for change can best be developed by concentrating on your strengths," notes Palmer, who works with the Solutions Group in Calgary and ranches with her family near Millarville. She also says she's found business people don't see their competition in the marketplace whether it's the neighbour farmer or another business. The omission weakens any plans.

Graham says the goal setting and planning process is part of looking for opportunities. Marketing, becomes a particularly important focus in a strategic plan for a farm operator, a getting away from a "try to solve problems by growing more bushels" attitude, he says.

One of the biggest hurdles to farmers using a strategic plan is being comfortable with the past and wanting to keep running their business the same way, despite how the world outside their business has changed. Some of their balking can be justified though. "There are good reasons for farmers to resist change," says Graham. On the farm there's "a long time between action and result".

Managing Agriculture for Profit's theme for 1991 was "farm business is family business". The annual farm management retreat at the Kananaskis Lodge features experts from across North America discussing a broad range of financial, management and human resource issues.

Video tapes of conference sessions are available for loan by writing Alberta Agriculture's Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or by contacting Trish Pannell at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240.

April 1, 1991
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Community investment one way to "farm out the century"

While many farmers will leave the industry before the turn of the century, the remaining ones will make a worthwhile life for themselves and their families.

That prediction was one of the ways Red Williams, a noted University Saskatchewan professor, sees the future. He shared his vision of "farming out the century" at the recent Managing Agriculture for Profit conference at the Kananaskis Lodge.

Farms will get larger, he says, either in their per acre size or intensity. Part-time farmers will become a permanent part of the system. The farmer who wants to maintain an independent lifestyle on the farm and be competitive in the global marketplace, might turn to community investment as an answer says Williams.

Through community-investment Williams says a group of farmers can put together a farmer-owned corporation that is financially viable, demand certain considerations from the market, have low individual risk, adopt the best technology and ensure some economic independence for the family farm. He cited one example, Poundmaker Feeders at Lanigan, Saskatchewan. Currently the community operation is expanding to a 16,000 head capacity feedlot with an ethanol plant.

Similar plans are underway in the Melfort area says Williams. A $5,000 share there, allows the farmer to ship 6,000 bushels of grain and 250 tons of green chop for silage at grain equivalent prices. As well, the shareholder has the green chop harvested for him, grain hauled, 350 tons of manure delivered and spread and has 145 head of steers on feed continuously in a modern large scale feedlot.

Community investment doesn't have to be so large scale, and can be as simple as sharing machinery. But the principle of larger scale for better efficiencies is important when competing in an international marketplace dominated by "mega-sized" companies, he says.

(Cont'd)

Community investment one way to "farm out the century" (cont'd)

Putting together a community project can be done in a variety of ways. Williams suggests starting with a small group listing human skills--from welding to nursing--and physical resources of land, buildings and equipment in the community. Then, brainstorm production ideas from small to large. Finally, set priorities and make decisions.

The biggest obstacle in getting a community investment project off the ground is the farmer. "You're the problem," Williams told his farm audience, describing farmers as "as independent as a pig on ice" and hating to relinquish control even if it makes money.

Without changes such as community investment to better compete in the global market, Williams says "the family farm will die because you will let it die". He called for farmers to invest together, "to give up independence as a decision-maker to maintain indepedence as a farmer".

Williams led into his discussion of community investment with a look at the history of Canadian grain and beef industries. The problems of today, he says, are rooted in our colonial history when Britain decided the Prairies would be a "breadbasket" and deliberately discouraged a livestock industry. As a long-term consequence, the world marketplace is signalling that the Western Canadian agriculture industry is out of step. Among his suggestions to improve the industry were a Canadian "Farm Bill" and changes to the Canadian meat grading system to assist Canadian packers in export trade.

Williams also strongly advocates planning and better farm management. "Keeping books isn't planning," he reminded his audience. "What you want to happen in 20 years, you have to plan today."

In the 1990s farmers must also continue to address high profile environment and animal welfare issues, he says.

Managing Agriculture for Profit's theme for 1991 was "farm business is family business". The annual farm management retreat at the Kananaskis Lodge features experts from across North America discussing a broad range of financial, management and human resource issues. Video taped conference sessions are available for loan by writing the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or contacting the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240.

EDITOR'S NOTE

To: Editors and News Directors

National Soil Conservation Week is April 8 through 14. Articles in support of this national awareness week will appear in this and the next issue of **Agri-News**. If you didn't receive a media kit and would like one, please contact Barb Shackel at 422-4385.

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April 1, 1990
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Make weather partner, not foe says Hall of Famer

Gordon Hilton's had a year to think about the acceptance speech he'd give when he officially became one of the first two inductees into Canada's Soil Conservation Hall of Fame.

As a driving force in establishing the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society more than a dozen years ago, the Strathmore area farmer has criss-crossed Alberta many times sharing the specifics of saving the soil. His lifetime commitment to conservation and innovative farming practices have made him a guru of sorts, not only inspiring fellow Albertans but drawing people from other parts of Canada, the United States and international visitors to his farm.

But, the quietly articulate 59-year old says his speech won't be about the particulars of his 3,200 acre operation farmed by himself and son Spencer, 33. A speech not strictly about the innovations in machinery he's made along the way since he started farming in 1949. Ahead of his time, he started no-till seeding in 1976 making modifications to his drill. Now the no-till operation seeds and fertilizes in one pass, and the Hiltons are able to work through 14 inches of stubble. They straight cut all of their wheat and half of their barley to get that height of stubble. Those inches of stubble are an effective snowtrap of winter moisture and at the same time hold down their soil from eroding winds.

He may give passing comment to the one challenge he is still working on--harnessing the sudden spring run-off. After all, water conservation is a partner in soil conservation and producing crops. The Hiltons are attempting to regulate run-off by contouring its flow to the prevailing slope of the land.

Mostly in his speech, Hilton wants to talk about each farmer's role in dealing with his local environment, and one of the biggest environmental factors: the weather. Most farmers still regard the weather as a foe he says. "It's one of the first things they complain about."

(Cont'd)

Make weather partner, not foe says Hall of Famer (cont'd)

But Hilton sees the weather as his partner. "As soon as the farmer accepts it, recognizes the weather as a partner...things will go their way as far as working in harmony and improving the ecosystem that's in existence," he says.

He illustrates his point with a story about meeting a neighbour from the other side (south) of the TransCanada highway. They met on a road, hadn't seen each other for awhile and stopped to chat. "It was the wet period during the early part of seeding," he reminisces, "and the first comment he made to me was, 'You know. Gordon, I wish we could have a normal spring for a change. It would be awful nice if we could have a normal spring'."

Hilton says he didn't say much in reply to his neighbour, but the comment made him realize, "every spring is a normal spring". His neighbour would be better off to quit fighting what the weather brought and adapt to it, he says. "Too many farmers--it's amazing how many farmers--still go by the calendar. They'll put their finger on the fifth of May, or some date and say 'I don't seed before the fifth of May'.

"If they would turn that calendar around at the first of April and take note of all the signs of spring approaching, such as trees budding out, the grass starting to green--those are the signs, not the calendar."

In his own joint venture farming with his son, the pair have begun seeding as early as April 8 by heeding nature's signals. "Early" seeding is usually barley, he adds, a vigorous plant that can take adverse conditions. Other years, seeding might not start until the last week of April.

A conversation with Hilton senior sooner or later will include son Spencer. Any reference to the farm uses "our" as the descriptive pronoun. There's also pride in the younger's own commitment to conservation. Spencer Hilton has served as ACTS president, the organization his father founded.

"I don't know if it's heredity, or what it is," smiles Gordon when questioned about Spencer's active role in the conservation movement. He adds he feels fortunate to have a son who shares his vision of farming and conservation, who with him administers "tender care" to the light sandy loam half section the first Hilton homesteaded in 1910 and the rest of their farm.

(Cont'd)

Make weather partner, not foe says Hall of Famer (cont'd)

Hilton is easily eloquent when describing what has propelled him to speak out about soil conservation. "It's disturbing, not only on my own land, to see degradation taking place, but disturbing to see lands in other parts of the province." Words to describe the fuel for his own abiding dedication to his land don't come as easily. "I like dealing with the elements, working with the soil, growing plants, it's...I don't know where it comes from and I can't explain it."

No matter the content of Hilton's speech, he's already lived an example for farmers, and the people farmers feed, about how soil conservation pays. While Hilton's peers honor him and a plaque goes up in the new Conservation Hall of Fame, the living legacies one suspects are more important to Gordon Hilton: the conservation converts, his own son's commitment and the soil itself.

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(Editor's note: Hilton was interviewed for this article before he gave the acceptance speech in Regina in early March)

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On-farm planning key to conservation in Acadia

A municipal conservation plan has provided a focus for conservation activities in the Municipal District of Acadia.

"Our agricultural service board (ASB) has struggled in its first few years to determine its role," says Gary Peers, agricultural fieldman. The municipality in eastern Alberta is wedged between the south and central regions, and formed its ASB in 1984.

There already was an active research organization in the area then, the Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA). So, the ASB knew it didn't want to duplicate CARA's applied research and plot work, says Peers.

"After some soul searching it was decided the ASB should provide services not normally available to the agricultural sector," says Peers. "So, we are putting an emphasis on record keeping, not just financial but also on operations--the field data and the need to plan.

"Planning is a physical writing down of what the farmer's already doing. By getting the plan on paper, you take ownership of the problems and the successes, and can use that base to move ahead in the future."

About the same time as the ASB chose this approach, the provincial and federal governments launched the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI). One CASCI thrust was municipal conservation planning. When the Acadia ASB was invited to participate in a pilot project, Peers says the group grabbed the opportunity. "We realized the pilot project was heading down the same path we were trying to steer towards."

Interest at the first three meetings in the winter and spring of 1990 was overwhelming he says. More than half of the 100 farm units in the municipality participated and agreed with the program's direction. That co-operative spirit generated what Peers describes as "a vast amount of data and experience in a very short period of time".

To enhance the information it gathered, the ASB formalized the data and put it in a binder to be used to aid future on-farm planning. Included are: a total soils and land use inventory; actual maps as well as mapping potential changes plus evaluation of current conditions; and, a recommendations section.

(Cont'd)

On-farm planning key to conservation in Acadia (cont'd)

"Farmers were by nature and need, always interested and responsive to soil issues ever since this 'dryland' was broken," says Peers. "What had been lacking was technology to an extent, but more particularly focus. That's what this pilot project has done for us.

"Records and planning procedures weren't available on various issues or methods uses and their effectiveness. Most of the work was hit and miss, or at best, simply a gut feeling something tried was working or not working.

"We see the municipal conservation plan as a real support system for the M.D.'s farmers and their conservation efforts. Through it they can focus on their problems, see the reasons for them and develop long-term solutions," says Peers.

The municipal plan approach should decrease the frustration of farmers who thought they were trying hard to reduce soil degradation, but still seemed to be losing the battle, he adds. "Farmers here have been using soil conservation methods for a long time." Fall and spring applied herbicides to maintain stubble and prevent wind erosion have been used for the last 15 years. Strip farming has been "practised religiously" since the 1930s. Field shelterbelts were started, but their use declined in popularity because of the failure rate establishing the seedlings and then when the seedlings were no longer provided free of charge.

"The planning and the emphasis on the long term point to the objective we eventually want to reach--farming by soils," he says.

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Contact: Gary Peers
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Conservation camp inspired change

People think about conservation, but need motivation to act on their good impulses. Fuelling that motivation is an annual challenge to 4-H conservation campers every year.

Deanna Brown of Tofield says attending the Alberta 4-H conservation camp changed her life and inspired her to become a conservation activist in her community. "The conservation camp has already changed my life and I plan to keep spreading my knowledge to whoever will listen. Who knows, I may just make a career of it," says the 17-year old.

For her conservation efforts, she received the 1990 Grant MacEwan Conservation Award as the camper who best promotes conservation after attending the camp. She received the award from MacEwan at the 25th anniversary camp last August at Battle Lake.

"People get frustrated when they are overwhelmed by a problem they feel they can do nothing about," says the grade 11 Tofield High School student. "I set out to help them realize that the solution actually lies in their future actions."

At the camp, Brown chose to study water conservation and fish and wildlife management. The other choices are soil, range and forest conservation. But, she didn't limit her efforts when spreading conservation messages in her community.

Brown says she considered projects from how global concerns could have a local angle. "With the media pushing more and more about the need for world wide conservation, my job was to bring ideas into community perspective and get people to act on them."

Encouraged by her mother, Brown wrote articles for a local newspaper and made presentations to several local groups, working extensively with students and youth organizations. Establishing a community composting site at the local transfer station, an arbour park program in her home town, a recycling challenge by her 4-H club to other organizations and a recycling program in her church are among her accomplishments.

(Cont'd)

Conservation camp inspired change (cont'd)

Brown is still actively promoting the conservation message, giving classroom presentations and writing a weekly message for her local newspaper.

A seven-year veteran member of the Tofield 4-H Multi Club, Brown is involved with outdoors, sewing and pheasant projects. She says she doesn't hesitate to put her conservation knowledge to work in her projects.

The Grant MacEwan Conservation award has been presented annually since 1975. It's named for the former Alberta lieutenant-governor and lifelong conservation champion.

The conservation camp is held annually in July at the Battle Lake 4-H Centre. About 60 young Albertans plus delegates from out-of-province 4-H programs spend a week learning about soil, water, range, forest and fish and wildlife conservation.

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Contact: Deanna Brown
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Henry Wiegman
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April 1, 1991
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Agri-News briefs

MAP'91 AVAILABLE ON VIDEO

If you didn't get to the 1991 Managing Agriculture for Profit conference, you can still benefit from the expertise at the conference. Ten video tape sessions from the conference are now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. The videos encompass topics from the environment to an economic outlook. Titles and speakers are as follows: "The Environment: What can I do", VT 309-1, Tim Ball; "Effective communication", VT 359-6, John Paterson; "Interest rates, inflation and recession: What's ahead...", VT 800-1-2, Lloyd Atkinson; "Farming and marketing in a global village--a geopolitical viewpoint", VT 809, Tim Ball; "Fallout from the Free Trade Agreement and GATT update", VT 809-2, Chris Thomas; "Managing Success as a family business", VT 810, Don Jonovic; "Running the farm versus the farm running you", VT 811-1, Jim Graham and Laura Palmer; "Agricultural law and the personal property security act", VT 819-5, Colin Simmons; "Farming out the century: Responding to the challenges of the'90s", VT 819-6, Red Williams; and, "Family relationships", VT 953, Gordon Colledge. For lending information write the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

SUCCESSOR FOCUS OF TWO-DAY PROGRAM

"Leading in the shadow of a legend" is a program designed for the "successor" generation of a family business. The two and a half day seminar is being offered in Edmonton starting April 28 running through April 30. The program focus is the personal and professional development of the successor rather than legal, estate and business planning of succession and is suitable for both the successor and successor's spouse. Patrick Duffy, founder and president of Corporate Growth Management Consultants, is the program facilitator. For more information, contact Duffy in Edmonton at 487-7571.

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This Week

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More speciality acres planned, barley also good idea

As expected Alberta farmers are planning to plant more acres of speciality crops this spring says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Because the details of the national GRIP program hadn't been finalized when farmers were surveyed, what is actually seeded might be different," says Al Dooley. "However, high prices for some crops will probably still keep those acres planted at around the same level."

In the January provincial survey, farmers said they'd plant 140,000 acres of peas. That's up 40 per cent from 1990. Dooley says seeded acres of green peas will likely be higher in both Canada and the U.S. this year. This is in response to high prices following a disastrous green pea crop last year in the U.S. "With normal weather conditions in this crop year, prices will probably be below current values pressured by the larger supplies."

In the survey, Alberta farmers also said they'd seed more speciality crop acres of lentils, sunflowers, safflower, grain corn and triticale. Mustard, fababean and canaryseed acres were down slightly in the survey.

Another department analyst says barley, from a cash flow standpoint, would be a better crop to grow this year than wheat. "In spite of other signals to the contrary, I wouldn't increase wheat acreage in my crop rotation above normal levels," says Charlie Pearson. "Both barley and canola will have much better delivery opportunities in 1991-92.

"Assuming similar inputs and management, your gross income per acre from barley in many cases won't be significantly different than for wheat," he adds. Pearson notes export barley markets are expected to be strong again in 1991-92. As well, with favourable weather both Alberta barley and oat prices are expected to be very similar to this winter's levels.

His advice for this spring is to sell any stored barley. "I encourage barley producers to sell their remaining old barley crop during the spring. A position in the futures market will be a much better alternative for taking advantage of a summer rally than storing barley," he says.

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Contact: Al Dooley
427-5387

Charlie Pearson
427-5386

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Analyze potential profit before buying grass calves

When cattle prices are in the clouds and grain prices have plunged into the depths, many producers look to make a profit by buying calves to put on pasture says an Alberta regional marketing specialist.

"There's an old adage cattlemen make their money the day they buy calves. That's very much the case in 1991," says Doug Walkey. "However, the profit you stand to make from grass calves depend on three things."

The initial purchase price of the calves, the cost per pound of gain and the final sale price all play a part in determining the cattleman's break even point and final profit he says.

To start, the final sale price won't likely be the same as what a 900 lb. feeder trades for in the spring. Livestock prices, following seasonal trends, are expected to fall with slaughter prices in August and September by about five cents per pound. "This means by late August the 900 lb. feeder will probably sell at around 90 cents per pound, and as volumes increase into September feeder prices might be as low 87 cents," says Walkey.

Calculating the cost per pound of gain should include factors such as feed supplements, cost of pasture, tripartite payments, veterinary costs, death loss, sales costs and interest. Typical costs, including all of these factors, may be around $120 per animal. Using this number you can determine a break even point on a purchase price.

"For example, if you estimate your cost per pound of gain at 55 cents per pound and expect to sell at 90 cents per pound, you could pay up to $1.01 per pound and break even. With careful planning, you can buy for less and show a profit," he says.

Walkey also reminds farmers to consider the timing of the eventual sale. "All of your estimates have to take into consideration when you plan to sell and a likely final price. If you delay your sale until September, then your break even purchase price, or the price you can afford to pay for calves, will be lower. Selling earlier in the fall offers more flexibility and opportunity for profit. As well, early sale can improve pasture management and average daily gains."

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Contact: Doug Walkey
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Irrigation, multiple harvest increase alfalfa forage, protein yields

Alfalfa forage and protein yields increased with irrigation levels and more harvests in an Alberta Agriculture experiment.

The project was on test sites near Rolling Hills, about 20 miles south of Brooks, says co-ordinator Colin McKenzie, a research agronomist with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"The experiment's results are particularly important to two sectors--dairy producers and alfalfa processors," says McKenzie. "Both sectors want high protein levels. The processors, in particular, need high protein alfalfa for the export market."

Three and four-harvest test plots yielded the most forage. Three-harvest site yields varied from 4.7 tons per acre at the lowest level of irrigation to 6.2 tons per acre at the highest irrigation level. Forage yields ranged between 5.0 and 6.1 tons per acre for four-harvest sites. Two-harvest yields were considerably lower, between 4.3 and 4.7 tons per acre.

Protein contents also noticeably increased with irrigation and harvest treatment says McKenzie. While increasing irrigation raised the forage yield by 10 per cent, the protein yield went up by 18 per cent. When the number of harvests went from two to four, the forage yield went up by 17 per cent and the protein yield by 38 per cent.

"When we combined the two--both more irrigation and more frequent harvests--that really boosted both the forage yield and the protein yield. The forage yield went up by 42 per cent, and the protein yield by 77 per cent," he says. Total forage and protein yields, and protein content were measured as well as digestible energy. Protein yields were calculated by multiplying the protein content by the dry matter yield.

McKenzie notes both varieties--Apica and Barrier--used in the trials had similar total yield and protein contents. "More years of study will indicate if there is a different response by the two varieties to the harvest and irrigation treatments."

(Cont'd)

He also notes the differences between irrigation treatments was reduced because the test plots that received the lowest irrigation rate used just over six inches of stored soil moisture to a depth of eight feet, while the highest irrigated area increased the stored soil moisture by an inch and a half. "Alfalfa under limited irrigation may grow well for one season, if it's on land that has stored soil moisture at depth. In subsequent years, we expect the residual difference in soil moisture will increase the contrast between the yields on the different irrigation treatments."

McKenzie says the yield increases might not be enough to justify the extra labour costs to all farmers and ranchers. "For the beef producer, achieving these gains might not be either necessary or practical. However, if the alfalfa is grown for an export or specialized market, achieving the higher yields and protein costs might make it profitable to put in the extra time and money."

The research project not only examined the effect of irrigation and frequency of harvest on yield, but also measured the effect they had on the survival and sustained production of the alfalfa stand. McKenzie notes the last harvest taken was October 9 to reduce the winterkill risk.

Soil and water agronomy staff at the Brooks research center along with Alberta Agriculture soils and animal nutrition laboratory staff will continue the project.

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Contact: Colin McKenzie
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April 8, 1991
For immediate release

4-H clubs sell safety to farmers

Alberta 4-H clubs are involved in a campaign to help farmers move their equipment more safely along the province's highways and other public roads.

Equipment that isn't properly marked can be a hazard for motorists. In 1989, there were two fatalities and 18 injury accidents involving farm vehicles or implements on public roads.

To help reduce this potential problem, participating 4-H clubs are selling Universal Implement Side Markers. The marker is a durable and highly visible flag and light used for both day and night transportation. It adjusts to fit most makes and models of equipment and can be easily wired into tractor systems.

"While this is a fund raising venture for our clubs, it's also an important contribution to rural safety," says Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

Participating 4-H clubs are selling the Alberta-made markers for $99.50. The markers are also available from a number of implement dealers in the province.

For more information, contact a 4-H club near you, or a regional 4-H specialist for participating club names.

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Contact: Ted Youck
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April 8, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers explore citizenship at nation's capital

Delegates at a national 4-H citizenship conference will be putting their organization's motto in action by learning about citizenship through taking part in a Citizen's Forum on Canada's future.

Participation in a Spicer Commission forum is one of the highlights of the citizenship program underway in Ottawa April 5 through 11. Six Alberta 4-H members joined 50 of their peers in the nation's capital for the national 4-H citizenship seminar.

The Alberta representatives are: Lorne Petersen, Olds; Dianna Armitage, Red Deer; Lee Haryett, Ardrossan; Melanie Bowman, Sundre; Leanne Niblock, Grande Prairie; and, Heather Rieger, Medicine Hat.

"Through the seminar's 20 year history, it's focus has always been good citizenship," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. At the seminar 4-H members from across Canada learn about their rights and responsibilities as Canadian citizens.

During the week the delegates discuss current issues, tour the city and attend seminars. Sessions this year include environmental citizenship, how government works and a day in the life of an MP. Longtime conference speaker and Parliament Hill journalist Mike Duffy will provide an inside view of Ottawa. At a special luncheon hosted by federal Agriculture Minister Don Mazankowski, delegates meet with their MPs. A seminar highlight is the presentation of citizenship certificates at a Citizenship Court ceremony.

Before leaving Alberta, delegates, their parents and club leaders were treated to a send-off banquet by Alberta Wheat Pool.

Delegates were chosen to attend the national seminar last May at the provincial selections program. Trip awards are based on 4-H involvement and interpersonal skills.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
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April 8, 1991
For immediate release

Shared approach to conservation in Grande Prairie area

Three producer groups in the County of Grande Prairie are using a co-operative approach for their soil and water conservation activities.

The Flying Shot Applied Research Association, the Teepee Applied Research Producers (TARP) and the Beaverlodge Soil Conservation Society are all working with the County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Service Board (ASB) to hire technicians. The technicians will assist the groups' members with farm conservation tillage demonstrations.

"This is one aspect of sharing the groups plan to do," says John Zylstra, Peace region soil conservation co-ordinator.

A committee has been struck to co-ordinate activities and several joint meetings will be necessary to ensure activity planning is complete before the busy summer season begins says Jim Broatch, the county's agricultural fieldman. "We're all looking forward to what we can accomplish by working together."

All of the groups are relatively new notes John Heinonen, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) area conservationist. All three are receiving project funding assistance from the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

The recently formed TARP group has applied for funding to buy a weigh wagon. The wagon is used to measure yields on demonstration plots and will be shared with the other groups in the county. Orval Sorken, TARP's chairman, says his group is interested to see if their research turns up ways to cut costs while maintaining yields and conserving soil.

A comprehensive planned approach to soil conservation is the strategy of the new Beaverlodge Soil Conservation Society. Chairman Wayne Longson says this year the group will look at soil compaction and get fields ready for reduced tillage demonstrations in 1992. It will also be working closely with the Agriculture Canada Beaverlodge research station.

(Cont'd)

Shared approach to conservation in Grande Prairie area (cont'd)

The Flying Shot group has a year's activities under its belt. Its activities are centred near Grande Prairie in the Dimsdale and Wembley districts.

Equipment demonstrations have been one of its thrusts says Don Partlow. Flying Shot's chairman. Last year they introduced rotary harrows and wide blade cultivators in the area. In the past, they've also demonstrated shredding standing stubble after straight combining. In 1991, they will do more work with the wide blade cultivator to maintain crop residue on the soil surface.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

To: Editors and News Directors

National Soil Conservation Week is April 8 through 14. Articles in support of this national awareness week have also appeared in the last two issues of **Agri-News**. If you didn't receive a media kit and would like one, please contact Barb Shackel at 422-4385.

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April 8, 1991
For immediate release

Award recognition of conservation commitment

When Ron Svanes accepted a provincial Conservation Farm Family award in January, it was a culmination of his many years of increasing commitment to soil and water conservation.

The recent award symbolizes the greater reward from the Svanes' conservation efforts: As his Norwegian forebears have done over the centuries, Svanes is leaving his land in better shape than it was when he began farming.

He started farming in 1972 after graduating from the University of Alberta's BSc. in agriculture program. The farm, east of Carmangay, was started by his father in 1913. Svanes first got involved with conservation through Wayne Lindwall, a researcher at Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge research station. About 1978 Lindwall approached him about using land for zero till research plots.

"Wayne put the seed in my mind about soil conservation and informed me about the disadvantages of summerfallow. I was committed half and half--half crop and half summerfallow--before that. Through Wayne I learned there were some definite disadvantages to summerfallow," says Svanes, who with his wife Edith, today operates a 1,600 acre dryland grain farm.

Svanes' next major conservation step was taken in 1983 to deal with a major problem on his farm, saline seeps. Although there was information available in Alberta on how to reclaim saline seeps, he says he wasn't committed to it until he went to Montana in 1983 and saw how farmers there put alfalfa on recharge areas.

"They [the Montana farmers] were working on the cause rather than the symptom," he says. Seeing the technique made him appreciate its value Svanes adds, and spurred him to try reclamation on saline areas on his own farm.

A year later, another trip--across the Atlantic to Norway--brought him another important realization about conservation. "The land over there had been farmed for maybe hundreds of years and is probably in better shape now than it was originally.

(Cont'd)

Award recognition of conservation commitment (cont'd)

"The dedication that those people had to the land reinforced in my mind that maybe we're going to have to change our attitude to improve the land for the next generation."

Over the years, Svanes has made impressive progress in conserving and improving the soil on his farm. He proudly shows before and after photographs of a saline area once so completely white and salty nothing would grow on it. Today it yields healthy crops.

The progress comes from a number of conservation techniques including continuous cropping, seeding recharge areas to alfalfa, reduced tillage and zero till seeding fall crops into standing stubble.

"Unfortunately due to the economic situation and the drought situation in our area, I've had to back off on the continuous cropping," he says. "But I refuse to go back to the black summerfallow days. So, now I'm into a lot of chemical fallow. I try to minimize my cultivation trips over my summerfallow and I'm also into barrier seeding." Seeding crop barrier strips in summerfallow reduces wind erosion and also acts as a moisture trap.

Svanes' initial conservation experience also made him a believer in the value of research. "At times my farm looks like a mini-research station," he says. Through the last dozen years Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada have used plots on his land for variety, fertility, alfalfa and annual crop barrier strip trials plus soil moisture use. Currently the Lethbridge research station is running tests on point fertilizer injection.

"I guess they give me an idea of where I'm at. If you know where you are, the decision making process is a little easier. And if they can say I'm making progress, it gives me encouragement to keep going," Svanes says.

Since his conversion to conservation he's also become active in his community's conservation activities. He is a member of the Dryland Salinity Control Association and the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS). As well, he has served on the land resources and engineering committee of Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future program and the Lethbridge research station's advisory board.

(Cont'd)

Award recognition of conservation commitment (cont'd)

The conservation commitment is a family one he says. "My wife Edith is my main partner in the business. I guess she would be called a stabilizer. She gives me support when I need it and knocks me off my pedestal if I get too-swellheaded... And she does a lot of the field work with me." They also have two children, Amanda, 13, and Tommy, 11, who help out with various farm duties.

That family involvement earned them the 1990 Farm Family Conservation Award, a provincial award sponsored by ACTS and the **Western Producer**. They also sponsor an annual award honoring a conservation group. Both awards honor achievements in soil conservation and encourage others to use conservation methods.

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Contact: Ron Svanes
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April 8, 1991
For immediate release

Conservation 2000 supports producer conservation efforts

A grassroots approach to solving soil conservation problems is one way an Alberta farm organization is addressing farmers' environmental concerns.

Establised in June 1989 by the Alberta Wheat Pool, the Conservation 2000 program draws on the experience and concern of Alberta farmers and supports their search for alternative farming methods that protect soil.

Conservation 2000 was designed to organize and focus producer efforts to combat wind and water erosion and soil degradation problems. Today, 24 Conservation 2000 clubs operate throughout the province. Another 21 clubs are in various start-up stages.

Local clubs meet regularly to exchange ideas and offer practical advice on putting conservation to work on the farm. Issues such as soil fertility, soil salinity, wind and water erosion, pesticide and fertilizer use and the environment are examined from the local perspective.

"There is genuine interest in conservation and environmental issues," says JoAnne Meents, Conservation 2000 program co-ordinator. "The interest shown is very encouraging and indicates farmers are concerned about their farms and want to do something to protect them for future generations."

Alberta Pool is committed to the program for the same long term goal says chief executive officer Don Heasman. "Productive soil is essential to the long-term survival of our members and the co-operative. Conservation 2000 provides support and offers suggestions that will go a long way to ensuring agriculture remains a viable industry. We are committed to the conservation movement and will continue to support farmers in their search for positive solutions to environmental concerns facing the industry."

Alberta Pool personnel, the Conservation 2000 Advisory Council and Conservation 2000 Foundation members support the program with information, funding and training. The foundation members include Alberta Pool, AT&T, DuPont, Monsanto and Western Co-operative Fertilizers.

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Contact: JoAnne Meents
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AGRI-NEWS

April 15, 1991

For immediate release

APR 23 1991

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Accelerated tariff removal boon to canola industry

Canada Day will have an extra significance for Canada's oilseed industry this year.

On July 1, half of the remaining U.S. tariffs on canola seed, oil and meal and flaxseed will be removed. The remainder of the tariff will disappear on January 1, 1992. Removal of these tariffs is part of the second round of accelerated tariff removal (ATR) in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Accelerated tariff removal has been undertaken with broad industry support to eliminate tariffs ahead of the original FTA schedule.

"Accelerated tariff removal for canola products will be a welcome boost to the Alberta canola industry, improving the competitiveness of our canola products in the United States. The current U.S. tariff on canola oil is 5.2 per cent and adds about $20 per tonne to the cost of doing business," says Gwendolyn Mansell, a senior trade policy officer with Alberta Agriculture's trade policy secretariat.

Based on 1990 trade figures, removing the tariff would mean a $6.3 million annual benefit for Canadian canola product and flaxseed exporters. Just over one-third, about $2.3 million will accrue to Alberta exporters.

In the trade agreement, Alberta exporters lost the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) subsidy for canola products travelling by rail to the U.S. through west coast ports. "Although this subsidy was already in jeopardy due to threatened U.S. trade action, the loss was a blow to Western Canadian canola producers and crushers shipping to the U.S.," Mansell says.

The latest development in accelerated tariff removal will provide some immediate relief for Canadian producers and crushers she adds. Recent subsidized sales of food quality rapeseed oil from the European Community into the American market displaced Canadian product in that market. "In the longer term, solutions lie in settling the international trade war through GATT. In the short term, removing the tariff will help our producers and processors," she says.

(Cont'd)

Accelerated tariff removal boon to canola industry (cont'd)

Canada's trade minister John Crosbie and U.S. trade representative Carla Hills announced the second-round ATR schedule in late March. About $1 billion in Canadian exports to the U.S. and approximately the same value of American exports to Canada are covered by this round of ATR.

This round of accelerated tariff removal talks in agriculture covered over 80 Canadian and 100 U.S. tariff lines or parts of tariff lines. Products ranged from beef to legumes.

A list of all products will be published this month in the Canada Gazette. During this notification period, between now and July 1, Canadian firms may make comments to the federal government.

The Alberta government has been a strong supporter of accelerated tariff removal notes Mansell. Several submissions were made to the federal government about the value of quickened tariff removal, particularly for agricultural products and the export based Alberta economy.

In the Canada-U.S. trade agreement, all tariffs were to be removed by 1998 when the agreement would be fully implemented. Some tariffs ended immediately when the agreement took effect on January 1, 1989. Others were scheduled for elimination in five equal steps by January 1, 1993 or in 10 steps by January 1, 1998.

A third and final round of accelerated tariff removal negotiations is expected to begin later this year.

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April 15, 1991
For immediate release

What to take when applying for GRIP

When going to a local Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC) office to apply for either or both crop insurance or revenue protection farmers should take the records they may need with them.

"Most necessary are legal land descriptions and a list of crops the farmer intends to seed," says Rick McConnell, research co-ordinator for the corporation.

Among the other things a farmer may need are his Canadian Wheat Board permit book and records of past crop yields. "What they need depends on what program they are going to participate in," says McConnell. "If the producer doesn't have a crop insurance history, he can adopt the area average or use his own records. For one or more selected crops the producer can pay a higher premium for an expected yield that's higher than the average, and that doesn't require any of his own records."

For more information on the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) that includes crop insurance and revenue protection programs, producers should visit either their local Alberta Agriculture district office or AHCIC office. Coverage and premium rates for the programs are available at AHCIC offices across the province. The application deadline for both programs is April 30.

Farmers who sign up for both programs will be able to determine their target revenue for each crop before spring seeding. An indexed moving average price (IMAP) is used to calculate the target revenue. Fifteen year average prices are indexed for changes in input costs.

Participation in GRIP is voluntary. Producers have four options. They can sign up for either or both programs or not participate.

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Contact: Rick McConnell
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April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Offset adjustment option within GRIP

It's not for everyone, but the offset adjustment is an option producers with above average area yields might want to consider if they choose to participate in the Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP).

"This option is very specifically for the producer whose yields are consistently above the area average. In essence it allows the above average producer to still be eligible for revenue protection program benefits," says Rick McConnell, research co-ordinator with the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC). The corporation administers both GRIP program elements, crop insurance and revenue protection.

Participation in the adjustment option doesn't require any records and farmers may choose the option for a specific crop. The option will be offered over a three-year phase-in period until the producer has established his own measured yields as a base for his program coverage says McConnell.

He adds the offset adjustment option may also be attractive to existing crop insurance policy holders who plan to grow a crop with an expected yield that's greater than crop insurance average yields multiplied by their individual index.

"It's very important farmers understand what they're doing when they choose this option. They select a level of coverage, that while higher than the area average, is typical of their own operation. They pay a premium based on the higher production level, but receive coverage calculated at the area average. Any production between the area average and their chosen higher level doesn't offset payments calculated at the area average," says McConnell.

For example, if the area's average barley yield is 50 bu./ac. and the farmer has consistently had 70 bu./ac. crops, he could pay a premium based on that 70 bushel crop. For this extra premium, the portion of his 1991-92 yield between 50 and 70 bushels is eliminated when calculating any revenue protection payment.

(Cont'd)

Offset adjustment option within GRIP (cont'd)

If his actual yield was 63 bushels, AHCIC retains the 63 bu./ac. measurement to determine the farmer's coverage in future years. But, a revenue protection payment would be calculated as if the farmer yielded only 50 bushels. The 13 bushel difference (between 63 and 50) wouldn't reduce any GRIP benefits. However, any production beyond the 70 bushel mark would have offset payments calculated from the area average level.

"Just to emphasize the point of expected yield, the farmer should be averaging that higher yield--in the example 70 bushels--not just had one 70 bushel crop in the last few years, but the rest of the time been around the 50 average. The farmer has to select the yield he truly believe he produces," says McConnell.

The offset adjustment is also designed to discourage producers from reducing their inputs and or yields to benefit from the revenue protection program.

For more information, such as coverage and premium rates for crop insurance and revenue protection programs, contact a local AHCIC office.

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Contact: Rick McConnell
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April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Budget help from custom rates survey

If you're budgeting or setting a custom work or leasing rate, Alberta Agriculture has a guide to help you.

Custom rates for a wide variety of farm work from tillage to harvesting are summarized in the "Custom Rates Survey Summary 1991" (Agdex 825-9). The guide lists common rates for 1990, as well as the range of rates and a comparison to 1989 rates. Regional differences are also noted.

The survey includes custom rates for tillage, seeding, fertilizer application, herbicide application, haying, silage, grain harvesting, grain processing, livestock hauling, corral cleaning, fencing, landbreaking and clearing. Rates for machinery rental, cropland leasing and pasture leasing are also presented in the summary.

"These 1990 rates are useful information as a guide for custom or leasing rates this year. They aren't intended for use as recommended or fair rates, they're simply the rates people who answered the survey said they charged," says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

The surveys were conducted by Maureen Whitlock of the department's statistics branch. She collected and compiled the data and summarized results for publication.

The summary is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
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April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Farm family needs to manage success too

A final challenge to successful farmers is managing the success they've achieved.

Don Jonovic, a Cleveland-based family business consultant, told the recent Managing Agriculture for Profit conference (MAP'91) farmers manage their production, cash flow and marketing, but, "one thing we never do--most of us--is manage success".

Jonovic's definition of success includes not only some measure of wealth and growth, but also the more personal element of fun. Fun, he says, is energy and "what gets us out of bed in the morning".

"If in fact we want this thing called our farm to continue in the way I've defined success--adds to the family rather than subtracts from it, supports us, gives us joy, gives us a place to love and work hard and till the land--the only people that are going to make that happen is us. Independent of production skills, we have to know how to manage our success," he says.

In a keynote address and later in conference sessions, Jonovic outlined five steps to managing success that not only are a way to manage success but to achieve growth, continuity and succession on the family farm. The five steps are: real agreement, real organization, real growth and change, a real ownership plan and real review.

All of these steps integrate success management with succession issues. This strategy was a key part of Jonovic's presentation and view if the family farm owner-operator goal's was for the "farm to continue forever", succession issues necessarily become a key part of overall farm management.

Both management and succession are part of "another" farm crisis Jonovic suggests: whether today's farm can change from an emphasis on production to management, and how farm families cope with the nature of agricultural success. Jonovic's first key step is real agreement and it's closely related to the next step, real organization. If the farm has only one owner and operator, then agreement isn't an issue. However, if there aren't clearly defined roles for all the people involved in the family farm, there may be much disagreement and a need for real peace.

(Cont'd)

Farm family needs to manage success too (cont'd)

He recommends what he described as more formal lines of authority with shareholders and shareholder meetings, a board and board meetings, and management meetings. While he says many farmers may disagree with a "bureaucratizing of the business", it may be the only way not to lapse back into argumentative or silent roles. Organization also includes suitable compensation for farm family members and any employees.

Growth and change involve looking to the future, from long-range production plans to retirement. Retirement can be a particular problem if it isn't planned in advance, he says. Farm operators are often reluctant to leave a lifestyle they were happy with, he says. But, he warned semi-retirement, is "a common strategy and the largest most devastating con game one man can play on another".

A real ownership plan involves estate planning. It isn't often done because death is an uncomfortable subject. Jonovic advises using outside experts such as lawyers, accountants and insurance agents. His priority list for an ownership plan includes: disaster planning in case of disability, death, divorce or business breakdown; owner security provisions for retirement income and retirement; dividing assets between children both on and off farm; and, tax saving strategies.

Finally, Jonovic recommends real review. Most farms are closely held, but so closely held he describes them as "hermetically sealed". This final step loosens the seal, finding institutionalized ways to get help. He suggests an advisory board of professionals who are familiar with the farm business.

Managing Agriculture for Profit's theme for 1991 was "farm business is family business". The annual farm management retreat at the Kananaskis Lodge features experts from across North America discussing a broad range of financial, management and human resource issues.

Video tapes of conference sessions are available for loan by writing Alberta Agriculture's Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or by contacting Trish Pannell at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240.

April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Dry edible bean tripartite payment announced

Dry edible bean producers will receive an interim payment from the National Tripartite Stabilization Program later this month.

The national bean committee has approved an interim payment on dry edible colored beans sold in the 1990 crop year. Nearly $965,000 will be sent to Alberta bean producers enrolled in the stabilization program says Lloyd Andruchow, head of Alberta Agriculture's speciality crop stabilization branch. Cheques should be processed by late April he adds.

"North American bean acreage increased by 30 per cent in 1990 and contributed to higher world supplies and lower market returns," says Andruchow. "As a result of the average national market return dropping below the support level, an interim payment was generated."

The 209 bean growers enrolled in the program represent 99.5 per cent of Alberta's bean production. Dry edible beans were grown on approximately 23,500 irrigated acres in the Bow Island-Taber area last year.

All enrolled growers are eligible for the interim payment of $2.43 per hundredweight or $53.56 per tonne. Colored beans grown in Alberta eligible for the payment are Great Northern, red Mexican, pinto and pink.

Stabilization payments are triggered when market prices drop below a set support price. Interim stabilization payments are based on 75 per cent of the difference between the estimated support price and the average market return.

A national tripartite program was developed in 1987 to stabilize returns to bean producers. Three specific categories are included: white pea beans; kidney and cranberry beans; and, other colored beans.

Producers, the provincial government and the federal government contribute equally to the stabilization fund through annual premiums.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
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April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Top 4-Her travels to two nations' capitals

Last year's Premier's Award recipient has just returned from a trip to Canada's capital and a national 4-H conference in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Babiuk, 18, of Brosseau, won the Premier's Award last May. This month she took the trip she earned at the provincial 4-H selections program last year when she also was named the province's 4-H spokesman.

The first-year Lakeland College university transfer student started her trip with nine other provincial representatives from across Canada in Ottawa. They toured the capital, learned more about the Canadian 4-H Council and were presented with proof of their Canadian citizenship at a citizenship court.

"Their two-day stay in Ottawa is partly an orientation for the Washington conference," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

The 10 Canadians joined 250 U.S. delegates in their capital city for their 1991 national 4-H conference. "Their experience is an intense week of educational sessions, consulting groups and visiting points of interest around historic and cultural Washington," says Stark.

As part of the conference, the delegates contribute to planning 4-H youth development programs. Babiuk was a member of "rethinking recognition" consulting group. Other consulting groups discussed environmental stewardship, cultural sensitivity, healthy choices, youth as resource, global connections and maximizing individual potential.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
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April 15, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

4-H FOUNDATION SUPPORTS HIT JACKPOT

Five lucky people have deeper pockets for supporting the 4-H Foundation of Alberta's lottery ticket drive. Don Lugg of Mannville picked up the $1000 first price in the lottery's early bird draw. Tom Bowman of Edmonton, Cindy Wilkinson of Vermilion, Dixie Brewin of Taber and Gary Fahner of Chauvin each pocketed $500. Proceeds from the lottery will go to improve and promote the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. The centre's facilities are being expanded with an Environmental Interpretive Centre and a staff/caretaker's residence. Since it opened in 1977, the centre has become a top notch facility for 4-H activities. It can also be rented to non-4-H groups. The lottery's grand prize draw will be held July 3 in Airdrie. Up for grabs are a $5000 trip certificate, a 250 cc quad, a computer system, a 200 cc motorcycle and a 29" television with VCR. "To continue the fine tradition of excellence and opportunity at the Alberta 4-H Centre, the foundation encourages you to support 4-H members in their ticket sales," says Vicki Berger, the foundation's secretary manager. Tickets are available while supplies last from Alberta 4-H club members. For more information, contact Berger in Edmonton at 427-2541.

INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE COMES TO ALBERTA

Western Canada will host the Association of Living Historical Sites and Agriculture Museums (ALHFAM) conference for the first time this June in Edmonton. Formed in 1972, the international association is dedicated to preserving agricultural heritage. Alberta Culture and Multiculturism's historic sites services branch will host this organization's 21st annual meeting and conference June 15 to 20. It starts with six pre-conference workshops on June 15. Five of the workshops--blacksmith, equine, machinery, replica resources and historic foodways--will be held at the Ukrainian Heritage Village. The first two days of the conference are concurrent sessions at the University of Alberta's conference centre. Participants can

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE COMES TO ALBERTA (cont'd)
choose to attend the Reynolds Museusm, Devonian Gardens or provincial museum during one of the final two days and will spend the final day of the conference at the Ukrainian Heritage Village. A post-conference tour takes participants to the Royal Tyrrell Museum and Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo Jump. For more information, contact Suzanne Dusome, local arrangements co-ordinator, at 431-2370.

ALBERTA SWINE A.I. CENTRE BOARS SCORE HIGH

The Alberta Swine A.I. Centre had more than 2.5 times as many boars ranked in the top 10 per cent as the average Western Canadian herd in the National Swine Performance Testing program last year. Thirty-five boars at the centre were in the total of 700 boars in service across the West that sired progeny in the national testing program during 1990. Seventy boars were ranked genetically in the top 10 per cent in Agriculture Canada's final report for 1990. The genetic rank is for both the boar's own performance and its progeny's performance. Of those top 70 boars, 10 were sires at the A.I. centre. "These report results support our quality mandate of selecting boars for the centre and indicates the success that we've had," says Sam Harbison, the centre's manager. For more information about the centre and the services it offers, contact Harbison in Leduc at 986-1250.

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

GRIP application deadline April 30

Grain, oilseed and speciality crop producers have just over a week left to apply for the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) before the April 30 deadline.

GRIP in Alberta has two elements in 1991: crop insurance and revenue protection. Participation in the program is voluntary and producers have four choices, from not taking part, to one of the two programs, to both programs.

"In order to get full GRIP benefits the producer must participate in both crop insurance and revenue protection programs," says Rick McConnell of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC). The corporation administers both programs.

GRIP allows producers to lock in a target revenue for this spring's crop before seeding. Program support for the revenue protection plan will be based on a 15-year indexed moving average price (IMAP). Each producer has an individual target revenue found by multiplying 70 per cent of the IMAP by the producer's long term average production (as determined by AHCIC). For example, the current 15-year IMAP would provide red spring wheat insurance at $4.15 per bushel. If the producer had an average production of 30 bu./ac., he could insure a total revenue of $124.50 per acre.

If producers don't have a yield history with the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, they can adopt the area average yield or use their own records. Producers can also use an offset adjustment option if they have consistently higher averages than the particular area has.

The farmer's premium for revenue protection is calculated by multiplying his average yield by the support price and premium rate. Farmers pay one-third of the total premium with the provincial and federal governments sharing the other two-thirds. Using the same example, a producer has a 30 bushel average yield red spring wheat crop and support price is $4.15/bu. The producer premium rate is 7.5, making the farmer's premium $9.34 per acre. Crop insurance premiums are in addition to revenue protection premiums.

(Cont'd)

GRIP application deadline April 30 (cont'd)

Complete coverage and premiums rates are available by visiting AHCIC offices across the province. Alberta Agriculture district offices also have information about the program.

McConnell reminds farmers to take their legal land descriptions and a list of crops they intend to seed with them when applying for either or both crop insurance or revenue protection.

Interim payments will depend on price outlooks through the growing season. Full payments, if required, won't be made until the final 1991-92 crop prices are known.

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Contact: Rick McConnell
782-4661

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

Sorting out cholesterol chaos

"Cholesterol free" is one of today's common food advertising slogans, but it's only helped to confuse consumers says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"Cholesterol has an evil reputation, so people are lining up to say their food product doesn't have cholesterol. While it's true serum cholesterol has been implicated as a villain in heart disease, cholesterol is also essential to life," says Aileen Whitmore.

Cholesterol, a waxy, fat-like substance, is important to the structure of brain, nerve and other body cells. It's also used as a building block in hormones, Vitamin D and the body's digestive juices.

The cholesterol found in your blood, called serum or blood cholesterol, comes from two different sources. About 80 per cent is from your body's liver. The remaining 20 per cent is influenced by dietary factors including excess calories, excess fat and, in some people, excess dietary cholesterol. A high blood cholesterol level is a condition usually associated with heart disease. Cholesterol found in the food you eat has only a small effect on this condition.

"Since cholesterol is so essential, our bodies actually produce it in the liver and a small amount in body cells. In normal, healthy people the liver produces what it needs in relation to what is consumed in the diet," she says.

"This is a natural balance, and only in the genetically prone does an imbalance occur," adds Whitmore. "Unfortunately most people don't understand this relationship, and think if they reduce the foods they eat with high cholesterol levels, then they minimize the risk of heart disease."

However, age, gender, genetics, smoking, stress, high blood pressure, obesity and lack of exercise seem to have a greater effect than diet on blood cholesterol. "Study results have shown that for most people reducing dietary cholesterol from dairy products and meats doesn't reduce their blood cholesterol levels. Reducing fats and calories seem to make more of a difference.

(Cont'd)

Sorting out cholesterol chaos (cont'd)

"This is where the advertiser is doing the consumer a disservice. For example, plant products--whether peanut butter, french fries cooked in vegetable oil or vegetable oil--don't contain cholesterol. But they all have a fat content, and that fat content may have as much or more to do with risk of heart disease than cholesterol alone," she says.

Whitmore's advice is to base your diet on Canada Food's Guide with its principles of variety, energy balance and moderation.

Variety means choosing foods from each of four food groups. The groups are: milk and milk products; fruits and vegetables; meat, fish, poultry and alternates; and, breads and cereals.

Energy balance means balancing energy intake from foods with your energy output from physical activity in order to control weight.

"Moderation is also a key principle," says Whitmore. "Have the chocolate cake or whatever, but have a small serving, and not too often." Whitmore's other advice is to select and prepare foods with minimal fat, sugar and salt, and to limit alcohol consumption.

"Following all the guidelines, rather than avoiding foods or just looking for cholesterol-free labels, is the best dietary way to minimize your heart disease risk. Also keep in mind your diet is only one factor in the risk equation," she says.

Alberta Agriculture district home economists can provide information on "heart smart" cooking and Canada's Food Guide.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

More leadership resources available for rural organizations

Alberta LEAD is providing rural organizations across the province with ways to make their groups more effective.

LEAD, which stands for leadership education for agricultural development, is a co-operative program of Alberta Agriculture, the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and the University of Alberta's faculty of extension.

This spring the LEAD program has released three new resources for rural organizations including a catalogue, a film/video and factsheets. "All of them fit with LEAD's goal of fostering self-reliant organizations," says Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

The "Leadership Resource Catalogue" lists books, videos, speakers and courses with leadership themes available in Alberta. "All of the resources in the catalogue can be used by agriculture related organizations interested in planning their own leadership development programs," says Myers. Each Alberta Agriculture district office, regional home economist, regional director and 4-H specialist also has a copy for their planning and program use she adds.

Copies of the catalogue are available from REDA's Edmonton office at $3. Write REDA at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, T5L 2N9, for more information.

The second new resource is "Taking Charge", an Alberta Agriculture film and video production with accompanying leader's guide. The production examines how leadership skills are the joint responsibility of individuals and organizations. Alberta Agriculture district video libraries will carry the video for loan, as will the Alberta Agriculture central film library in Edmonton.

Two more fact sheets, originally developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, are now part of a "Perspectives in Leadership" series available from Alberta Agriculture's Publications Office (7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6) or any district office. The two new titles are "Working with Volunteers" (Homedex 1926-30) and "Strategic Planning" (Homedex 1924).

Contact: Shirley Myers
427-2412

John Melicher
451-5959

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

Department specialist leading poultry exchange to eastern Europe

An Alberta Agriculture poultry specialist will lead an international poultry industry delegation to eastern Europe this summer.

Rod Chernos, a regional specialist based in Airdrie, will head a group of international poultry industry representatives taking part in the voluntary Citizen Ambassador Program. Chernos will be the first Canadian to lead one of the program's poultry exchanges.

Leaving from New York in mid-July, the delegation will spend nearly three weeks in Poland, the Soviet Union, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. They will meet with their counterparts at university poultry science departments, feedmills, hatcheries, processing plants, breeder farms, grower farms, commercial egg operations, government extension offices and feed stores.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to meet face-to-face with people from your industry somewhere else. We can discuss similarities and differences and also work at co-operative projects," says Chernos.

Chernos took part in a similar exchange to eastern Asia in the mid 1980s. "The east Asia exchange afforded me the opportunity to meet and work with delegates with a common interest, and now seldom a month passes that contact isn't made with one of these delegates.

"As leader of this international delegation, one of my goals will be to ensure the colleagues we meet with in Eastern Bloc countries, and our own delegates, will be able to look back on their experiences with satisfaction and to be able to feel something useful was accomplished.

"And, I look forward to sharing my experiences with the poultry industry in Alberta on my return," he says.

Chernos was chosen to lead this delegation based on his previous participation with the Citizen Ambassador Program, his background and his very great interest in poultry research and the people who conduct it. At least 15 delegates are expected to participate.

(Cont'd)

Department specialist leading poultry exchange to eastern Europe (cont'd)

The Citizen Ambassador Program is one of People to People International's, an organization founded in 1956 by then U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower. Designed during a time of high political tension, the organization promoted international co-operation to achieve results in technical and scientific fields. More than 50 countries are involved in the program with exchanges in six fields including agriculture. The exchanges range between one and four weeks in length. Besides the professional aspect, the exchanges also include cultural experiences.

For more information, contact Chernos in Airdrie at 948-8511.

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Contact: Rod Chernos
948-8511

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

Beiseker 4-Her tops provincial speak-off

Likening the world community to a film, with each of us as characters and a role to play in the future, earned Howard Hixt first place honors as Alberta's 1991 champion 4-H public speaker.

Hixt, 17, of the Beiseker Beef Club, was one of 14 finalists at the annual provincial 4-H public speaking championships held at Edmonton Northlands. All finalists prepared a speech around the theme of the world community. Each of the speakers also displayed their speaking skills in a second part of the competition, an impromptu speech. Hixt's impromptu speech was about the importance of family history.

Angela Bishell, 17, of Veteran and a member of the Consort 4-H Multi Club, was second and Wendy Taylor, also 17, of Red Deer and the Red Deer East Beef Club, was third.

Communication training has a special emphasis in Alberta's 4-H program says Anita Anderson, Alberta Agriculture 4-H branch personal development specialist. "Speaking skills are an important part of each club's activities. We also have programs to enhance member's speaking skills. Competitive public speaking is a showcase for the many very talented young speakers in the 4-H movement," she says.

Last year's public speaking champion, Hendrik Wildeboer of Lacombe, was the afternoon's master of ceremonies.

Framed certificates and gift book awards were presented by the competition's sponsors, Alberta Agriculture and competition host Edmonton Northlands. On hand to make the presentations were Dale Cole, president of Northlands, and Irene Leavitt, Alberta Agriculture field services assistant deputy minister.

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Contact: Anita Anderson
427-2541

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

Brand inspection fees increase May 1

Alberta Agriculture's fee schedule for brand inspections and horse permits will increase on May 1.

Inspection fees for livestock brands will increase from 50 cents per head to one dollar per head, with a minimum fee of $10 for on-farm inspections. The fee increases, says Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley, have been made necessary by rising costs and the Alberta government's commitment to fiscal restraint. "These increases bring Alberta's fees more in line with those charged in our neighbouring provinces," he says. "In British Columbia, the brand inspection fee is 75 cents per head, and in Saskatchewan it's $1.00 per head."

Alberta Agriculture's livestock brand registration and inspection program provides a valuable service to the province's livestock owners. The program registers brands in the name of individuals or companies, and those brands are used as permanent, readily identifiable marks of ownership throughout the production and marketing cycle.

"Alberta's brand registration and inspection system gives our livestock owners excellent protection against loss and theft of animals by providing a proof of ownership. We're pleased that, despite the financial restraints experienced by the provincial government, we are able to continue providing this service to farmers at a reasonable cost," says Bill Herbert, head of Alberta Agriculture's regulatory services branch.

As well, the price of a yearly horse permit in the province will rise from $2 per year to $3 per year.

For more information about permits, brand registration and inspection fees contact Alberta Agriculture's regulatory services branch in Edmonton at 427-5098.

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Bill Herbert
427-5098

April 22, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

POULTRY HIGHLIGHT AT FEEDER'S DAY MAY 30

The fine tuning of the poultry industry is the theme of the University of Alberta's 70th annual feeder's day May 30. (Please note: May 30 is the correct date, not May 31 as previously reported.) The open house will be held at the university's Edmonton research station located at 115 Street and 60 Avenue. A number of short talks on nutrition, management, environment and poultry processing technology will run through the day. Expert panels will discuss these topics in an open forum. As well, there will be demonstrations and commercial displays plus tours of the poultry facility. The day's program begins at 9:30 a.m., a chicken lunch will be served at noon, the panels start at 2 p.m. and a stuffed turkey barbeque will start at 3:30. The $20 registration fee include the lunch and barbeque, a copy of the feeder's day report and proceedings from the day's seminars. Advance registration can be sent to the university's animal science department at 310 Agriculture/Forestry Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2P5 (cheques made payable to the University of Alberta). For more information, call 492-2343.

AAEA AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND FINANCE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

The Alberta Agricultural Economics Association will hold its annual outlook conference May 1 and 2 in Red Deer. The "Visions '91" conference will discuss trends and issues in agricultural policy and finance. Among the agenda topics are: Canada's dairy policy; food safety issues; GATT and Canadian safety net and support programs; and, agricultural policy and re-drawn electoral boundaries. The final day of the conference includes two panels, one on farm finance, and, the other on alternative agriculture. For more information or to preregister, contact Kevin Gillis in Calgary at 240-5948, 230-2960 or FAX 240-6698.

ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE MEETING THEME

The Alberta region of the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE MEETING THEME (cont'd)

(CSAE) will discuss the future of engineering in agriculture at a two day meeting in Lethbridge May 31 and June 1. Keynote speaker is Edward Hiler, president elect of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and interim chancellor of Texas A&M University. Martin Wrubleski, president of the CSAE, will lead a panel discussion on the need for agricultural engineering. Technical sessions and tours will demonstrate the value and involvement of agricultural engineering in Western Canadian agriculture. The meeting includes a tour of the Oldman River Dam from an engineer's perspective. For more information, call Reed Turner in Lethbridge at 329-1212 or Murray Green in Airdrie at 948-8525.

TOPSOIL STORAGE REVIEW REPORT AVAILABLE

Concerns about the effects of storing topsoil for long periods has resulted in a report reviewing the effects of storage on its physical, chemical and biological characteristics. When an industrial development such as a wellsite or gravel pit is planned, it's important the topsoil be removed and stored for future site reclamation. The Alberta government's reclamation research technical advisory committee commissioned a review of the scientific literature on topsoil storage. Conclusions from the review indicate storage doesn't appear to have any severe or longterm effects on topsoil quality. Fertilizer and manure can alter chemical changes, and physical changes appear to be potentially less serious than changes in soil quality associated with stripping and respreading operations. Soil biotic populations appear to revert to predisturbance levels within acceptable time frames. Broad, shallow storage piles seeded to suitable grasses and legumes are recommended. Agrochemical use should be carefully controlled to ensure soil organisms aren't destroyed. The $10 report is available from the Queen's Printers, 11510 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, T5G 2Y5 or call 427-4952, please quote report #RRTAC 90-5. This is one of 10 reports on a variety of reclamation topics released by the committee this year. For more information, contact Chris Powter, the committee chairman, at 427-4147.

AGRI-NEWS

April 29, 1991

For immediate release

MAY 10 1991

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Preliminary report shows low soil moisture in southeast

A preliminary soil moisture report indicates southeastern parts of the province have low soil moisture levels says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Spring soil moisture conditions have been established for the southeastern portion of the province," says Allan Howard, Alberta Agriculture soil moisture specialist. "Frost has prevented sampling west of Highway 2 and north of Highway 13, so the final spring report for those areas has been delayed. However, we are releasing a soil moisture map for the southeastern area, because of the extremely dry conditions we found there."

Soil moisture levels are in the low category in all Prairie areas east of the foothills he says. The only areas in the moderate moisture category are west of Pincher Creek and Cardston, and the Cypress Hills.

An area from Daysland to Brooks, and east of Drumheller into Saskatchewan is in the very low category. "In this area no significant soil moisture is present and seeds aren't likely to germinate without rain," he says. "In the special areas and the Municipal District of Acadia Valley, it's reported there is very little soil moisture even in summerfallow fields," he adds. (Please see attached map.)

After sampling is complete, a soil moisture map for the entire province will be issued, probably in early May. Howard says it's expected spring soil sampling will show the entire eastern half of the province and much of the southeastern Peace region will be in the low moisture category. One exception is an area around Lloydminster, where overwinter snowfall may push moisture conditions into the moderate category.

"Crop losses are likely without early, timely and sufficient rainfall," says Howard. "Precipitation during the latter half of April may change conditions."

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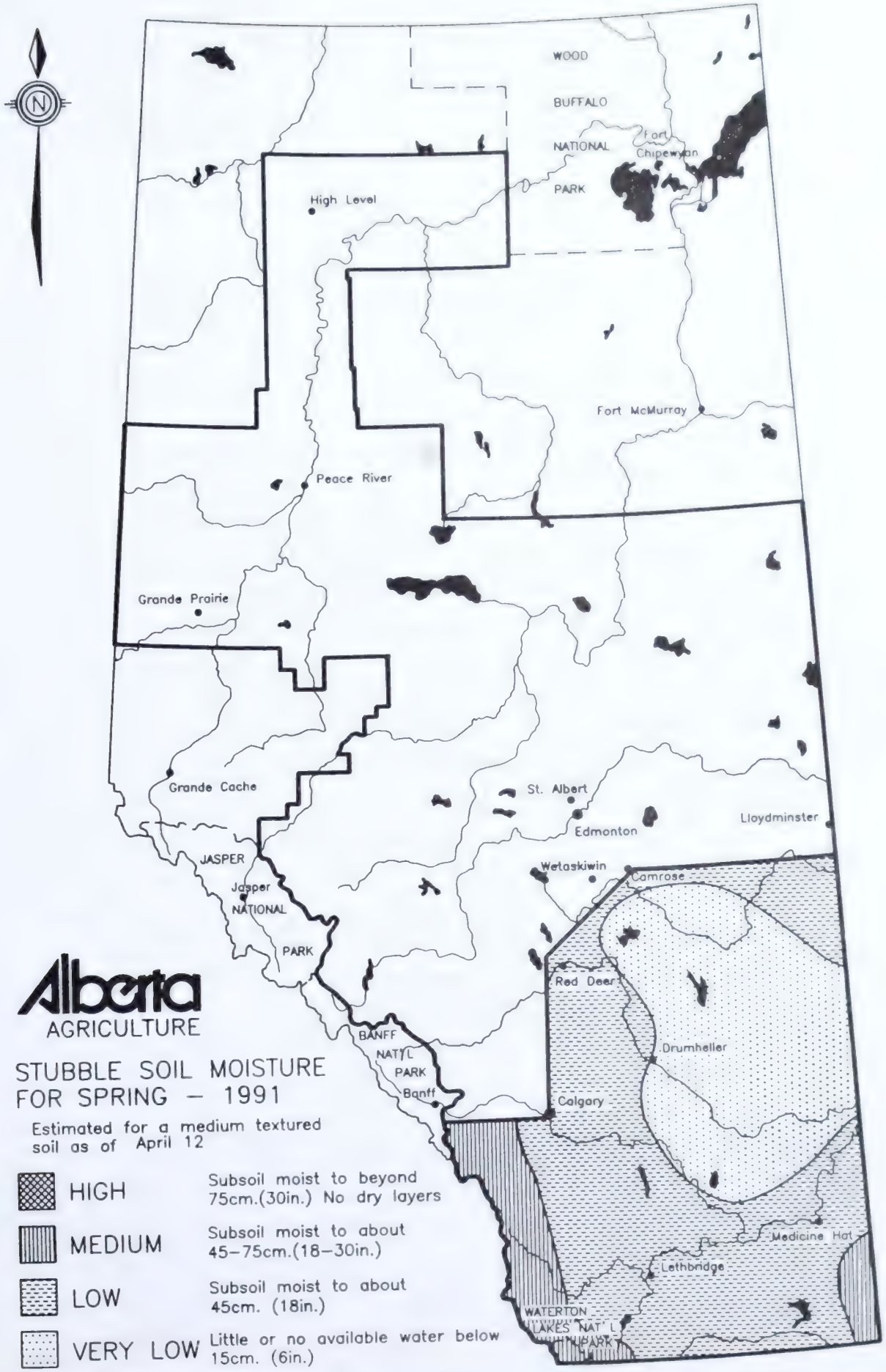
Contact: Allan Howard
381-5861


WOOD
BUFFALO
NATIONAL
PARK
Fort
Chipewyan
High Level
Fort McMurray
Peace River
Grande Prairie
Grande Cache
JASPER
Jasper
NATIONAL
PARK
St. Albert
Edmonton
Lloydminster
Wetaskiwin
Camrose
Red Deer
Drumheller
BANFF
NAT'L
PARK
Banff
Calgary
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
WATERTON
LAKES NAT'L
PARK
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
FOR SPRING – 1991
Estimated for a medium textured
soil as of April 12
HIGH
Subsoil moist to beyond
75cm.(30in.) No dry layers
MEDIUM
Subsoil moist to about
45–75cm.(18–30in.)
LOW
Subsoil moist to about
45cm. (18in.)
VERY LOW
Little or no available water below
15cm. (6in.)
COMPILED BY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Farm water highlighted in Prairie-wide newsletter

This spring Prairie farmers can look to a new source of technical information about their water supply and its quality.

The **Prairie Water News** début issue will soon be available at all Alberta Agriculture district and regional offices says Bob Buchanan. Buchanan, a regional agricultural engineering technologist based in Barrhead, is one of the authors in the first issue and also one of the people behind starting the newsletter. "Concerns about water supply and its quality are growing, and the newsletter will look at all of those kinds of water issues," he says.

"Farmers can read about practical and proven ways of improving water supply and quality in wells and dugouts," he adds. "The newsletter will be up-to-date and promises to be a real smorgasbord of information about water." Some of the first issue's topics are liming to improve dugout water quality, algae in dugouts, well water supply and new research on water for poultry.

"The newsletter is written by a group of dedicated farmers, researchers, government and industry professionals from across the Prairies. We're convinced that by working together, and through information sharing, we can help protect and improve rural water supplies and water quality on the Prairies," he says. "The newsletter is aimed at farmers because they're the key to adopting the practices."

The co-operative spirit of the **Prairie Water News** extends to its sponsors. They are Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch, the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), the Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). The SRC will publish the newsletter twice a year. Spring and fall issues are planned says Buchanan.

The idea for a newsletter grew out of a two-day farm surface water quality workshop held in Saskatoon last June. In a follow-up questionnaire, the participants said they liked the newsletter idea says Buchanan, who was one of the workshop's organizers.

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Contact: Bob Buchanan 674-8252
Ken Williamson 340-5324
Orin Kenzie 381-5112

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Preparing and planting your vegetable garden

When a gardener's thoughts turn to planting a vegetable garden, preparing the vegetable plot for seeding should be part of the planning says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Adding organic matter and fertilizer both need to be considered before you plant your garden," says Pam North of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

At least a half-inch of organic matter should be added to the garden plot once every two years she says. Organic matter can be peat moss, well rotted manure or compost. "If your soil is hard, add two to three inches every year until the soil loosens up," she adds.

North advises gardeners to take soil tests occasionally to check the nutrient, pH and salt levels in their soil. "The soil test will give you the specifics of any nutrients you may need to add. If you aren't able to take a soil test, then an all-purpose fertilizer such as 16-20-0 can be used," North says.

Another thing to consider when planning the garden is when to plant says North. Among the cool season crops that can be seeded at the end of April or early May are: lettuce, spinach, onions, garlic, beets, carrots and swiss chard. Cole crops from seed such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and radishes can also be planted early.

"However, some vegetables shouldn't be planted too early," she says. "Potatoes should go in around May 10. Cold and cold soil sensitive vegetables such as bush beans shouldn't go in until late May. Corn, squash, pumpkin and cucumber should also be planted around May 20."

May 20 is also a "magic" date for transplanting vegetables outdoors. "Cole crop vegetable transplants such as cabbage can go out then. So can peppers and tomatoes if you protect them with a hot cap, or provide other frost protection," she says.

(Cont'd)

A hot cap is a transparent paper cap that acts like a small greenhouse. They're made from heavy wax paper, are reinforced with wire and provide two to three degrees of frost protection.

Floating row covers called reemay cloths or garden blankets can also be used for frost protection. The cover traps heat and reduces soil moisture loss, so plants grow well.

This barrier also provides insect protection. "They're great for cole crops in particular, because they prevent root maggot flies from laying their eggs in the soil and also cabbage butterflies from getting at the plants," says North.

For more information about preparing a garden seed bed or planting a vegetable garden, contact North in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: Pam North
422-1789

EDITOR'S NOTE

To: Editors and News Directors

The following four stories all deal with different aspects of field shelterbelts. Each article can stand alone, or with some editing, can be incorporated into a single, long feature article. For more information about field shelterbelts, please see the contact names listed at the end of each story, or contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office or municipal agricultural fieldman.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Information Services Division

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Prepare site before planting field shelterbelt

Field shelterbelts are now recognized as a critical conservation tool, but farmers still need to know more about how to make use of this technique say two Alberta Agriculture specialists.

"For a shelterbelt to accomplish what you want--moisture retention and wind erosion protection--you must give it the right kind of start," says John Timmermans, soil conservation specialist with the conservation and development branch in Airdrie.

"That means preparing your shelterbelt site, and how you care for the seedlings before and after they're planted," says Brendan Casement, provincial shelterbelt specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

In Alberta, shelterbelts can be planted between late April and early June. Moisture accumulation, especially in drier areas, and weed control are the two major priorities in site preparation says Casement.

The recommended procedure is summerfallowing a planting strip about two to three metres wide the year before planting seedlings. "Trees should be planted into summerfallowed land, not into unworked stubble, and never into sod or newly broken sod," says Casement.

A key part of shelterbelt success is weed eradication. "All weeds should be eliminated the year before you plant your shelterbelt seedlings. If you don't, you create an almost impossible task for yourself--trying to keep perennial grasses and weeds such as sow and Canada thistle under control," says Timmermans. Use glyphosates (Roundup, Laredo or Wranger) or amitrole (Amitrol-T) and cultivation to get rid of the weeds.

The spring you plant the shelterbelt, cultivate the planting strip to destroy existing weeds and apply trifluralin (Treflan 545 EC, Rival 500 EC or Triflurex EC) immediately before, or up to three weeks before, planting the seedlings. This pre-emergent herbicide controls annual grasses, purslane, lamb's quarters, redroot pigweed, chickweed and wild buckwheat as they germinate.

(Cont'd)

Prepare site before planting field shelterbelt (cont'd)

Trifluralin doesn't control plants in the mustard family including stinkweed, flixweed and shepherd's-purse. These weeds can be controlled after the seedlings have been planted he says.

Casement recommends incorporating the herbicide into the soil with a rototiller, tandem disc, disker or vibrashank cultivator. "And always follow the label recommendations for the application rate," he adds.

The soil in the shelterbelt strip should be well-worked to the proper planting depth and be free of large, dry clods.

Once the site has been prepared it's ready for planting the seedlings. The seedlings must be handled very tenderly he says. "Tree seedlings are highly perishable," notes Casement. "Pick them up from your district office as soon as possible, and plant them just as quickly as you can."

For more information, please contact Casement in Edmonton at 422-1789, Timmermans in Airdrie at 948-8539, any Alberta Agriculture district office or municipal agricultural fieldman.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
422-1789

John Timmermans
948-8539

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Pre-planting care necessary for shelterbelt seedlings

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office phones to say your shelterbelt seedlings have arrived and your first thought is a panic stricken: "I'm not ready to plant them".

This scenario isn't uncommon, but the reaction doesn't have to be panic says Brendan Casement, shelterbelt specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

"Tree seedlings are highly perishable, but if you take care, you needn't worry," he says.

First, do pick up the trees immediately and try to plant them as quickly as possible. If planting is delayed, store seedling bundles in a cool, dark or shady location. The most critical care is not letting the seedlings dry out or leave the roots exposed for more than a couple of minutes. Seedlings may need water, but don't sit them in water cautions Casement. Moist burlap can be used to keep the plants cool.

If the delay is a week or longer, Casement suggests temporarily heeling-in the seedlings. Dig a V-shaped trench, preferably in the shade, and spread out the seedling bundles. Cover the roots with soil and water occasionally.

Before planting, check the seedling variety with your planting plan. "Make sure you can identify the seedlings, to ensure you're planting the tree in the proper shelterbelt row," he says.

Seedlings should be planted at the same depth as they were grown in the nursery to about one centimetre deeper. The seedling's stem is an obviously darker color above the level of the nursery's soil surface he notes.

"Shallow planting will cause the roots to dry out and planting too deep may cause suffocation, especially with spruce," says John Timmermans, of the conservation and development branch in Airdrie. Trees shipped with containerized roots such as Siberian larch should be planted so the top of the peat plug isn't exposed to the air, or it will quickly dry out.

(Cont'd)

Pre-planting care necessary for shelterbelt seedlings (cont'd)

If the soil is dry, seedlings should be watered as soon as possible after planting.

For more information about field shelterbelts, contact Casement in Edmonton at 422-1789, Timmermans in Airdrie at 948-8539, any Alberta Agriculture district office or municipal agricultural fieldman.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
422-1789

John Timmermans
948-8539

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Follow set-back regulations when planning field shelterbelt

If your planned field shelterbelt is near an Alberta primary highway or secondary highway, you may need a development permit.

"Planting trees and shrubs within 30 metres of a primary highway or a secondary highway with a 900 series number requires a development permit," says John Timmermans, a conservation specialist with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch in Airdrie.

Farmers can apply for these permits at Alberta Transportation and Utilities district offices.

All other roads fall under municipal jurisdiction. Local authorities in the municipal district, county, special area or improvement district should be contacted for their regulations on set-back distances says Timmermans. "The requirements vary considerably and some are wider than provincial requirements," he notes.

Set-backs do provide a number of advantages say Timmermans and Brendan Casement, provincial shelterbelt specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

"Field shelterbelts set back from fencelines are accessible from both sides, and that has particular advantages for weed control during establishment years and for other maintenance throughout the life of the shelterbelt," says Casement.

Maximum wind protection is also possible through the set-backs says Timmermans. "A strip 30 to 50 m on the windward side of a field shelterbelt is less prone to wind erosion than an open field."

Among the other advantages are: reduced costs of controlling spread of shelterbelt species into ditches; increased safety from better visibility at intersections and less snow drifting; and, less road kill of birds and other wildlife using field shelterbelts for food and safety.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
422-1789

John Timmermans
948-8539

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Plan year ahead for field shelterbelt and to order seedlings

Putting in a shelterbelt takes planning plus ordering your seedlings up to a year before you plant them say Alberta Agriculture specialists.

The Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre will start taking orders for 1992 shelterbelt seedlings on June 1. It accepts applications up to a November 1 deadline.

"Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so the people who order early usually get what they want," says shelterbelt specialist Brendan Casement. "Some varieties go really fast. By July last year three types of tree seedlings were no longer available, so I encourage you to get your order in early."

Trees and shrubs for farmstead shelterbelts can be ordered through the Alberta Shelterbelt Program. "Farmers pay for any plants ordered through this program," reminds Casement.

Six varieties of trees for field shelterbelts are being made available to farmers free of charge through the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI). An application fee still applies and there is also usually a delivery charge from the municipality.

In order to qualify for this use, the trees must be used on field shelterbelts at least 500 metres long and be shown on a sketch map attached to the application form.

"A field shelterbelt protects soil and crops from wind damage," says John Timmermans soil conservation specialist with the conservation and development branch in Airdrie. Shelterbelts have been shown to increase yields when planted properly and as recommended, he adds.

Northwest poplar, acute leaf willow, green ash, caragana, dogwood and white spruce are available through the CASCI program. "These trees give farmers in the different climatic areas of the province suitable choices for their field shelterbelts," says Timmermans.

(Cont'd)

Plan year ahead for shelterbelt and to order seedlings (cont'd)

Caragana does well in drier areas, while the dogwood is better where there is good precipitation. The willow makes a good shelterbelt in the moist central and northern regions. Poplar, spruce and ash do well in all but the extremely dry areas.

White spruce come in bundles of 10 and deciduous seedlings in bundles of 25. They are ordered accordingly. Recommended spacing for these seedlings in field shelterbelts are: caraganas, 50 cm; dogwood, one metre; green ash, two metres; Northwest poplar, acute leaf willow and white spruce, three metres.

Application forms for field (and farmstead) shelterbelt seedlings are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and from municipal agricultural fieldmen.

Contact: Brendan Casement
422-1789

John Timmermans
948-8539

April 29, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

GRIP PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 15

Alberta farmers have another two weeks to apply for crop insurance and revenue protection programs that make up the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP). Both programs are administered by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC). For more information contact a district AHCIC office.

NEW MANDATE FOR IRRIGATION REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM

A new five-year mandate for Alberta's Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion Program has been announced by Shirley McClellan, associate agriculture minister. The newly extended program, from 1991-92 through 1996-97 will receive $125 million to rehabilitate and expand the irrigation water supply of Alberta's 13 irrigation districts. Each year the districts will receive $20 million for current rehabilitation and expansion needs. Annually, another $5 million will be put in a trust fund for future needs. The existing program cost-sharing formula--86 per cent Alberta government and 14 per cent irrigation districts--will continue in the new mandate. The new funding plan was developed in co-operation with the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association (AIPA), the umbrella organization for the province's irrigation districts. The program is funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and administered by Alberta Agriculture and the Irrigation Council. To date, $312 million has been spent through the Rehabilitation and Expansion Program and another $474 million through the Headworks and Main Irrigation Systems Program. With this new mandate, the trust fund will have invested more than $1 billion in the province's irrigation infrastructure by the end of 1996-97. Irrigation activities directly and indirectly employ an estimated 35,000 Albertans and account for about $1 billion of the province's annual gross domestic product. For more information, contact Brian Colgan, director of the irrigation and resource management division at 422-4596.

(Cont'd)

FARM CHILD CARE INITIATIVE FUNDED

Identifying practical rural child care arrangements is the aim of new pilot projects funded by the Agriculture Initiatives Program. The Alberta Women's Institute has been chosen to plan, implement and evaluate a variety of rural child care projects in Alberta. A member of the Women's Institute will chair a provincial project management committee representing key Alberta farm women's groups including the Women of Unifarm, Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture and the Alberta Farm Women's Network. The committee's first job will to be set out criteria and procedures for community-based pilot projects. The first projects are expected to run during the 1991 fall harvest and 1992 spring seeding. The Agricultural Initiatives Program provides funding to community-based projects designed to help enhance the quality of life in rural Alberta. Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan made the announcement as part of the Alberta Plan for Action for Women. For more information, contact Holly Hallett, president of the Alberta Women's Institutes, in Carstairs at 337-2349 or Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, at 427-2412 in Edmonton.

CANADIAN CATTLEMEN GO GLOBAL AT FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION/TRADE SHOW

Issues in the international marketplace will be the focus of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) first national convention and trade show June 19 and 20 in Calgary. The convention "Cattlemen '91--Going Global" program will look at the challenges of globalization and includes an international panel discussion of trade after the GATT Uruguay round. Beef promotion and the environment are also on the agenda. Registrants before May 30 qualify for an early bird draw. For registration and other information, contact the CCA office or convention co-ordinator Deb Bodnar in Calgary at 275-8558.

MEMORIAL AWARD TO RECOGNIZE CONSERVATION PLANNING

A conservation award for young Alberta farmers will be awarded for the first time this year in memory of a central Alberta conservationist. Wayne

(Cont'd)

MEMORIAL AWARD TO RECOGNIZE CONSERVATION PLANNING (cont'd)

Arrison has established the A.W. Arrison Award for soil conservation planning in memory of his father. Recipients will be farmers under the age of 25 who have developed a comprehensive three to five year conservation plan for their farm. The award recognizes the need for long term planning in successful conservation practices as well as sustainable agriculture being in the hands of the next generation of farmers. Entries require detailed action plans outlining present practices and problems, and specific changes to correct the problems. Applications will be available by April 30 and the entry deadline is November 30. For more information, contact Wayne Arrison at 347-5392 or FAX 347-4023.

SELECT ALL-BREEDS HORSE SALE AT SPRUCE MEADOWS THIS WEEK

Selection and soundness are offered to prospective buyers at the first annual all-breeds select horse sale at Spruce Meadows May 4 and 5. The four day event includes the two-day sale and two days of viewing starting May 2. Ten breeds will be auctioned. On May 4 Canadian Pintos, Paints, Appaloosas and Quarter horses will be in the sale ring. The following day Morgans, Saddlebreds, Tennessee Walkers, Trakehners, Arabians and Sport horses will be sold. All horses in the sale catalogue were pre-screened by their breed associations and will undergo a second inspection when they arrive at Spruce Meadows. Buyers will also have an opportunity to have horses vetted if they choose. As well, breed association representatives will be on hand to discuss the merits of their breed and show off performance abilities. For more information, call Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch--Bob Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8905 or Les Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650--or Spruce Meadows at 254-2300.

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Coming agricultural events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **June, July, August, later in 1991 or 1992**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by May 21, 1991 to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(**Coming agricultural events** is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next list will be June 3, 1991)

AGRI-NEWS

May 6, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Early irrigation may be necessary

Irrigation farmers who didn't fall irrigate should check their soil moisture conditions says an Alberta Agriculture irrigation management specialist.

In a late April pre-seeding survey, the irrigation branch found soil conditions varied dramatically between fields that were and weren't fall irrigated says Bob Riewe, of the irrigation branch in Lethbridge.

"Fields that were fall irrigated in 1990 have both good moisture conditions for seeding and down to one metre," he says. "Fields that weren't fall irrigated are much drier, so farmers who didn't fall irrigate should be preparing to irrigate early."

The non-fall irrigated fields were 15 to 25 per cent drier--at the zero to 25 cm depth--than fields that were irrigated, and were 30 to 35 per cent drier in the zero to 100 cm root zone range, he says.

Limited precipitation in August and September contributed to the low soil moisture he says. During September 1990 the Lethbridge area recorded only 16.7 per cent of its normal precipitation.

Last fall an irrigation branch survey found half of the tested fields had soil moisture levels at less than 50 per cent. "Fifty per cent is a desirable level to be at at the end of a crop growing season," he says.

As well, over winter precipitation--between November 1 and March 31--was only near normal notes Riewe. "The Lethbridge area can expect to gain about 30 mm of soil moisture from over winter precipitation. This spring there was a gain of about 15 to 20 mm."

The irrigation survey encompasses an area in irrigated southern Alberta from Monarch in the west, north to Enchant, east to Bow Island and south to Magrath.

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Contact: Bob Riewe
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May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Demand for Alberta Beef grows in North American market

Demand for Alberta Beef kept pace with increased production in 1990, with Alberta Beef making market share gains across its main North American markets.

"Those gains are despite negatives such as the high Canadian dollar, a border inspection problem with the United States and significant no-roll, or ungraded, U.S. beef making its way into Canada," says Dave Rous, market development trade director.

Preliminary data shows Alberta production up 22,730 tonnes from last year says Michael Adam, trade statistician with the statistics branch. Consumption in the province was up an estimated 4,580 tonnes, and both interprovincial exports and U.S. exports increased he says.

Quebec is the province's major domestic beef market and Alberta Beef shipments there went up about nine per cent. Interprovincial exports to Ontario, British Columbia and the Maritimes also increased.

Sales of Alberta Beef to the U.S. went up from $65 million in 1989 to an estimated $78 million last year. "We're moving in on the target we set of $100 million in beef exports to the U.S. by 1992, and we're confident we can reach that goal," says Rous.

The $100 million target was set in a 1987 study that predicted Alberta Beef exports to the U.S. could feasibly double in five years. In 1980 Alberta exported about $10 million of beef to the U.S.

Last year about $10 million of those American sales were attributable to a special "Alberta Beef team". The team co-ordinated by Rous, includes representatives of Alberta packers, the Alberta Cattle Commission and Agriculture Canada. The team presents complete information seminars about high quality Alberta Beef from its genetics to boxed beef products. The seminars include a display of Alberta Beef, plus an Alberta Beef meal for wholesalers, retailers, distributors and foodservices clients in the specific target market. Since 1987 the co-operative effort has taken the team to Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland.

(Cont'd)

"Our team approach has really paid off in contacts for the packing industry and in them making sales," Rous says.

California and Oregon are currently the major Alberta Beef markets in the U.S. says Rous. Most of the beef exported there is high quality, value-added boxed beef.

Another west coast market that still needs to be tapped is Seattle he adds, but, Alberta packers face a non-tariff barrier there. A county ordinance excludes products not USDA graded from being sold in Seattle's King County. "Grading changes and subsequent grading equivalency between Canada and the U.S. should help Alberta exporters break into this major market," says Rous.

Future Alberta Beef seminars, incoming and outgoing missions and other promotions are planned once potential markets are identified and researched as a good opportunity for Alberta Beef packers says Rous.

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Contact: Dave Rous
427-4241

Michael Adam
427-4011

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta beef boosted by Japanese import group visit

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan (second left) with members of the Japanese Food Service Association who recently visited Alberta to talk beef. From left to right are: Takeshi Koujima; McClellan; Hiroshi Ono, chairman of the JFSA joint purchasing committee; and, Hisashi Nakai, JFSA operations manager.

When Shirley McClellan, Alberta's associate agriculture minister, was in Japan in February she extended a very important invitation to a key Japanese food importer.

Japan Foodservice Association (JFSA) representatives accepted that invitation and came to Alberta last month to talk beef with industry leaders. Meeting with packers and touring facilities were part of their week long visit.

(Cont'd)

"The timing of their visit was as significant as the visit itself," says David Wong, Alberta Agriculture's senior trade director for Asia Pacific. "Japan relaxed its restrictive quota system on April 1. While there will still be duties on imported beef, this does represent an important liberalization of the Japanese beef market."

The JFSA has been the biggest Japanese importer of Alberta Beef to date. A continued relationship with the association is critical to Alberta Beef exporters says Wong. "The association has over 350 members serving 35,000 restaurants. The entire Japanese food service industry totalled sales of $198 billion (Canadian) in 1989. Those figures show the size of the market we're trying to get into, and its potential."

The JFSA representatives' itinery was organized by the Canada Beef Export Federation. They met with federation and senior government officials including Barry Mehr, Alberta Agriculture assistant deputy minister. Both sides pledged to work together to introduce quality Canadian beef to Japanese consumers. That process has already started in Japan. A campaign, begun in March and running through June, at four restaurant chains promotes Canadian beef with "Canada Beef Freedom Fairs".

"The Japan Foodservice Association knows Canadian beef is juicy and tender," buying committee chairman Hiroshi Ono said through an interpreter during the recent Alberta meetings. "But most Japanese consumers don't know this. We want to take the opportunity of introducing, through our association's channels, good quality Canadian beef to Japanese consumers."

Wong echoes the necessity and value of promotions such as the current "freedom fairs" to achieve that goal. "Alberta Agriculture will continue to support efforts by the Canada Beef Export Federation to deliver a quality product to the Japanese market," he says.

Wong also notes Canadian beef exports to Japan were down slightly in 1990. "Sales were less than expected, but viewing these statistics should be tempered by looking at the market situation. Buyers there were anticipating the trade liberalization and stockpiled. However, it's predicted prices will come down because the tariff will be cut by ten percentage points in both 1992 and 1993.

(Cont'd)

Alberta Beef boosted by Japanese import group visit (cont'd)

"In the long run, this should definitely open up the Japanese market. As well, consumers now can buy imported beef at lower prices, encouraging them to try it. Awareness coupled with lower prices should help Alberta and Canadian beef exports," he says.

Trade liberalization also gives overseas meat exporters a new way to sell their product. A computerized meat exchange, the Chubu Meat Trading Centre, offers Japanese meat buyers and foreign exporters a forum to set fair market prices. The centre opened on April 1 and will specialize in imported beef. Previously, all beef imported into Japan had to go through the Livestock Industry Promotion Council.

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Contact: David Wong
427-4241

Andrew Raphael
274-0005

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

1991 Summer Farm Employment Program announced

The Summer Farm Employment Program has begun its 20th year of bringing students and farmers together.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Norm Weiss, career development and employment minister, announced the start of the program, a component of Alberta's Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP).

STEP's summer farm element has proved a successful way to provide temporary employment for students while helping farmers meet their seasonal labour needs. Since its inception, the program has created on-farm summer jobs for more than 33,000 students.

Through the program any Alberta farmer is eligible to hire a student and receive assistance in paying his or her wages. The Alberta government pays half of the employee's monthly wage to a maximum of $330 for each month of the program. Jobs are to run from July 2 through August 31, 1991.

"This program offers young Albertans a great opportunity to learn new skills, obtain valuable work experience, and gain first-hand exposure to the complex business of farming," says Isley. "It's also an excellent opportunity for farmers, who can reduce their summer labour costs significantly by hiring students through the program."

"Effective career training is a key priority for our government," says Weiss. "I am pleased that the Summer Farm Employment Program will once again this year offer Alberta students a chance to gain practical career skills in a work setting."

Student applicants must be 15 to 24 years of age. Farmers may not apply to employ family members. Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or local Agriculture Employment Service offices.

Applications from both farmers and students will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and must be delivered to Agriculture Employment Service Offices no later than May 31. The program limit of 586 students is expected to be reached well before the final application date. Those interested should apply as soon as possible.

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Contact: Bernie Yakimyshyn
422-9167

Carole Shields
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May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Animal welfare research professorship funded

The Alberta Agricultural Research Institute has announced a $250,000 grant to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) for research into food animal behavior and welfare.

Funded through the Institute's Research Professorship Program, the grant will be made over a three year period. The professorship program supports full-time academic researchers in agricultural fields requiring further study and development.

"This program arose out of our institute's ongoing reviews into Alberta's agricultural research needs and capabilities," says the institute's chairman Bob Bogle, who made the announcement. "From the findings, our board of directors decided to develop four research professorships covering food packaging and preservation, value added marketing, resource conservation and animal welfare and ethology [behavior]."

The animal welfare professorship is the second announced to date. Last August a soil conservation professorship at the University of Alberta was the first to be set-up. Details of the other two professorships are currently being finalized and will be announced later this year.

"Producers and producer groups who want to see very specific research can increase funding for the animal welfare professorship if they wish," says Ralph Christian, executive director of the institute. "We would certainly welcome the support." Anyone interested should contact the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute in Edmonton or the WCVM in Saskatoon for more information.

The WCVM, part of the University of Saskatchewan, has appointed Joe Stookey to fill the new position. Stookey has a doctorate in animal behavior from the University of Illinois.

Approximately three-quarters of Stookey's efforts will be in research says Chuck Rhodes, who will co-ordinate the program for the WCVM. Teaching time will be about 10 per cent of Stookey's job, and extension activities will take about 15 per cent of his time.

(Cont'd)

Animal welfare research professorship funded (cont'd)

Much of Stookey's research will focus on beef animals. "Cattle behavior and welfare haven't received as much research attention around the world as swine and poultry. There's a good chance for Dr. Stookey and the university to make significant contribution in this area," says Rhodes.

Stookey says his first task is to meet producers and discuss areas of animal behavior that concern them the most. His research will then focus on animal behavior, animal welfare and ways of improving productivity.

"For example, the first-calf heifer's mothering abilities are not as developed as those of a mature cow," he says. "It would be advantageous to understand what makes them different and to see if we can improve on the mothering traits of the younger animals."

Other possible research areas are measuring the level and duration of stress experienced by an animal during branding, dehorning, castration and alternatives to these practices.

As well, the program may study other areas assigned high research priorities in Canada. These include piglet death and the farrowing environment, group housing systems for pregnant sows, long-term confinement of dairy cattle and calf rearing systems.

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Contact: Dr. Joe Stookey
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Dr. Ralph Christian
422-1082

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Care, consideration needed in applying micronutrient fertilizers

Micronutrient deficiencies are occurring in some of Alberta's soil types, but those deficiencies are the exception not the rule, so producers shouldn't rush to apply fertilizers that may not be necessary says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The need for and use of micronutrient fertilizers should be approached with a great deal of caution and consideration," says Ross McKenzie, soil fertility specialist in Lethbridge. "You could create a problem instead of solving one if you apply an unnecessary micronutrient, and applying a fertilizer to a whole field rather than an area with a particular problem may be a needless expense."

Micronutrient deficiencies usually occur first in a small area of a field. Often they are found on sandy or eroded soils or in peaty soils where depth to mineral soil is greater than 40 to 50 cm. "For this reason you need to look at specific areas of a field where you have a problem," he says.

Determining the deficiency requires soil tests, plant tissue tests and field test strips. "Soil tests alone can't be used to accurately predict a micronutrient deficiency. For example a 0.4 parts per million (ppm) of copper is adequate in many soils. However, in some soils with a 0.6 ppm of copper, wheat will respond to added copper. As well, soils with a higher pH frequently test low in zinc and boron, but crops don't respond to added zinc and boron," says McKenzie.

To check a field for micronutrient needs, start by identifying problem areas. Take soil samples at zero to six inches, six to 12 inches and 12 to 24 inches for analysis. Also take plant samples for diagnosis and tissue analysis.

If soil and tissue analyses and visual symptoms suggest a micronutrient problem, then try test strips of micronutrient fertilizer application in the problem area and observe any changes. Use only test strips in the first year to confirm if the problem is really a micronutrient deficiency he says.

(Cont'd)

Care, consideration needed in applying micronutrient fertilizers (cont'd)

McKenzie recommends consulting with an Alberta Agriculture regional soil or crop specialist about the problem. The specialist can help the producer work through the steps of identifying what caused the problem.

He also has a warning about the danger of over application. "While lack of a micronutrient can reduce a crop yield, too much is also harmful. Too much boron, for example, can cause boron toxicity and significantly reduce yields of sensitive cereal crops and some pulses. Even an application of two pounds per acre of boron on an acid soil could potentially reduce yields."

Cereal crops are sensitive to copper and manganese deficiencies. Signs of copper deficiency in wheat can include stem melanosis or ergot. Oats are more sensitive to a manganese deficiency than wheat and barley. Grey speck in oats and barley is a non-infectious disease caused by a manganese deficiency.

A new Alberta Agriculture video discusses micro and macronutrient deficiencies. "Yield Signs" (VT 531) is now available for loan at Alberta Agriculture district video libraries.

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Contact: Dr. Ross McKenzie
381-5126

Dr. Ieuan Evans
427-7098

Doug Penney
427-2530

Garry Coy
835-2291

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Thorhild 4-H member wins Premier's Award

A 17-year old high school student from Thorhild is the 1991 recipient of the Alberta 4-H program's highest honor.

Annette Polanski was chosen the Premier's Award winner during the annual three day provincial 4-H selections program in Olds. During the program, Alberta's top 140 4-H members are brought together for a weekend of personal development through group interaction. The delegates participate in activities designed to improve life and leadership skills.

Polanski was selected from nine finalists known as the Ambassador Group. In the 1991 group are: Lori Andrews, Barrhead; Sandra Bahrynowski, Wildwood; Erin Branson, Markerville; Neal Church, Balzac; Brian Davies, Dewberry; Carmen Knowles, Byemoor; Kenda Lubeck, Worsley; and, Robin Schneider, Bow Island.

Polanski says she was excited to be named recipient of the 27th annual award. "This is really great, I'm looking forward to the opportunity of representing Alberta 4-H members in the coming year." Among her responsibilities will be representing Alberta this July in the Royal Bank interprovincial exchange to Newfoundland.

For the last eight years Polanski has been an active member of the Thorhild Crafty Creators and the Radway 4-H Multi Club. As well as holding executive positions in her club, she has participated in a number of regional and provincial 4-H activities. She was a junior staff member at Club Week, Conservation Camp and "Way with words weekend". An excellent public speaker, Polanski also enjoys Ukrainian dancing, volleyball and choir.

Polanski succeeds Jennifer Babiuk of Brosseau as the Premier's Award recipient.

Roy Brassard, Olds-Didsbury MLA and associate minister of family and social services, congratulated Polanski on behalf of the premier. The official award presentation will be made later this summer by Premier Don Getty.

(Cont'd)

Thorhild 4-H member wins Premier's Award (cont'd)

Trip awards to 59 selections delegates were announced at the weekend concluding awards breakfast. These 4-H members were chosen to represent Alberta at major educational programs throughout Canada and the United States over the next 12 months.

Alberta 4-H members 16 years of age and older (as of January 1) can participate at selections. Throughout the weekend members are evaluated to determine their eligibility for trip awards. This includes points from their yearly 4-H diaries, a current events/4-H examination, peer evaluation and assessment by group leaders. This year, selections delegates participated in group activities centred around the theme of "the power within me".

Organized by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, the selections program is sponsored by Agriculture Canada, Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Wheat Pool and United Grain Growers.

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Contact: Annette Polanski
398-2266

Marguerite Stark
948-8510

To Editors/News directors: Included in your Agri-News mailing is a separate package with the details of the 59 trip awards made at the selections program. A brief award description is followed by a list of award recipients. An alphabetical list of all participant names, addresses and phone numbers is also included.

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Dairy Congress has new date, new features in '91

This year's Alberta Dairy Congress sports a new, earlier date and has expanded to include a Holstein show.

The fifth annual congress will be in Leduc May 31 and June 1, rather than its traditional date in July. As well, a Holstein show will be part of an expanded program of activities at the congress.

A trade show and seminars have been part of the congress from its beginning, and both will continue. The trade show, however, has a new wrinkle this year: a computer alley. "There's an increased interest by farmers in both computer hardware and software," says Roger Andreiuk, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Leduc. "The 'computer alley' will showcase what's available."

This year's seminars include an afternoon workshop on personnel management, a discussion of multiple component pricing and a presentation on quality forages says Bill Slack, chairman of the speakers and seminar committee. Slack is the Alberta Agriculture regional dairy specialist in Barrhead. Also returning to the congress are farm tours of two local dairy producers. He also notes there will be a special speaker the evening of May 30 for trade show participants. Don Chinski, Alberta Economic Development and Trade associate director of trade shows and promotions, will be the speaker.

Following its introduction at the 1990 congress, a forage competition will again showcase quality hay and silage. Andreiuk says there has been "tremendous" response to this year's competition with 76 total entries in five competition classes. Entries have come from all over Alberta, as well as from Dawson Creek in the B.C. Peace region. Winning forage competition entries will be displayed at the trade show.

Another new wrinkle in the congress is the Holstein show. Running on the evening of May 31, the show has 11 classes. Entries close on May 15.

For more information call the Alberta Dairy Congress office at 986-8108.

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Contact: Bill Slack
674-8253

Roger Andreiuk
986-8985

Iris Yanish
986-8108

May 6, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

NEW AUDIO TAPES AVAILABLE

Alberta Agriculture's Film Library has two new audio tape series in its library. "Tom Peters Live" (AC 391-13) is a six cassette series discussing business management challenges in the '90s. In "Six Steps to Power Thinking" (AC 391-15) learn how to step aside from normal thinking patterns and use new concepts and alternative techniques to get things done. For loan information, write the Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

SPRING LAWN SHAPE-UPS

Dethatching and fertilizing are two ways to shape-up your lawn in the spring. Dethatching is good spring maintenance, although it might not be needed every year says Pam North, horticulturist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. Thatch is the layer of dead roots and leaves that accumulates at the base of the turf. A thick thatch layer makes it difficult for water, air and fertilizer to penetrate into the soil. It may also make the lawn feel spongy. If it's more than 1.5 to 2.0 cm thick, some of it should be removed. Not all of it should be removed at the same time. Vigorous hand raking will remove some of the thatch. A vertical mower or power rake will be quicker and more effective. If the layer is very thick, it may take years to remove. Spring is the best time to dethatch, allowing the grass time to recover. Aerating may also be necessary if the lawn has become compacted from heavy traffic or when grown on clay soils. Aerate by removing small plugs of soil, and time it in the spring when soil is moist. Fertilizing and watering should be done after dethatching and aerating. Early to mid-May is a good time for a first fertilizer application. Lawns five years old or less can have a 16-20-0 on first application, and 21-0-0 or 34-0-0 on second (late June) and third (early to mid-August) applications. For older lawns, use a high nitrogen 21-0-0 or 34-0-0 for all applications,

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

SPRING LAWN SHAPE-UPS (cont'd)

or a slow release nitrogen fertilizer. Read the fertilizer label for application directions. To encourage a deeper root system, water lawns deeply and infrequently (dependent on moisture conditions). Two inches is recommended. For more information, contact North in Edmonton at 422-1789.

DEALING WITH WINTER INJURY OF EVERGREENS

Brown needles on your evergreen trees may be a sign of winter injury, but don't panic because the trees can recover. "In most cases damage isn't severe enough to kill the trees, but the needles that turn brown are dead and will fall off," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton. Severity of the damage will vary. Some plants may lose all their needles, others may lose just those on the ends of branches or on one side. Winter injury in evergreens is usually light tan or reddish brown colored needles. Colorado spruce takes on a purplish color. The injury is caused by desiccation, or drying out, of the foliage. This type of damage is seen more on sunny and exposed sides of buildings and on evergreens such as junipers and cedars planted on the south and west side of buildings says North. There are several ways to deal with winter injured evergreens. Trees shouldn't be watered until the ground has thawed out and it appears moisture is needed. Branches shouldn't be pruned, North cautions, until you are sure which parts of the tree are dead. "Even if old needles are dead, trees should get new growth at the ends of branches," she says. Light fertilization to stimulate growth can also be used, but not until after new growth comes out. For more information, call North in Edmonton at 422-1789.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM WETLANDS WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

The Alberta Water Resources Commission has prepared a summary report of comments and written reponses to the draft wetland management policy. The report is based on public consultation during a recent series of workshops discussing the draft policy. To obtain a copy, contact the commission by writing 900 Harley Court, 10045-111 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2M5, or call 422-4232.

AGRI-NEWS

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Spring snow storm brings hope

The snow storm that hit eastern Alberta and much of Saskatchewan in late April brought welcome moisture says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Low soil moisture levels in southeastern Alberta had farmers worried that seeds wouldn't germinate unless they got rain," says Peter Dzikowski, with the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. The April 26 through 28 storm, which dropped 20 to 100 mm of precipitation, improved soil moisture conditions in some areas.

The largest dumps of snow were Lloydminster's reported 83 mm of precipitation and about 100 mm in the Cypress Hills he says. Most eastern locations however, reported about 20 to 50 mm of precipitation from the storm. He adds the storm did push Lloydminster's April total to 93.8 mm, almost four times the monthly long term average.

Whitecourt and Edson, although they didn't get the late storm, weren't far behind Lloydminster's precipitation total. Respectively they recorded 88.4 and 77.6 mm during April, about three times their normal April average. Most of their precipitation was during a smaller storm early in the month he says.

Claresholm reported only 1.8 mm of precipitation during April, four per cent of its normal April total. "Most of central, western and northwestern Alberta had below normal precipitation during April," Dzikowski says.

Average temperatures were two to four degrees Celsius above normal at most Alberta locations.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

New regulations for secondary meat processors

New provincial regulations for secondary meat processors will help small processors assure their product quality.

Co-operatively developed by the provincial Department of Health's Environmental Health Services and Alberta Agriculture, the new secondary meat processing regulations are an expansion of the Public Health Act's food regulations.

"The new regulations will allow Alberta Agriculture's meat hygiene branch to provide inspection to secondary meat processors and use an inspection legend or stamp on the final product," says branch head George Summers.

Secondary meat processors are businesses that purchase inspected meats from either federally inspected packing plants or registered Alberta abattoirs, and process that meat into retail cuts or make sausage and other speciality products for wholesale distribution.

Only federally inspected secondary processors can distribute their finished products for interprovincial or international sale. Processors that aren't federally inspected operate under the authority of a food premises permit issued by the local health unit, and no inspection stamp is available for use on their packaging.

"Many of the smaller secondary meat processors have indicated a need for an inspection stamp, so they can supply their products to chain stores and to institutional trade," says Summers.

"With the new regulations, the presence of an inspection stamp on a package or meat product will assure the retailer and the consumer that animals were slaughtered in a recognized inspection system and meat was processed in a facility meeting the best possible standards of construction, sanitation and processing procedures," he adds.

(Cont'd)

New regulations for secondary meat processors (cont'd)

Secondary meat processors who aren't already operating under federal inspection may now apply to their local health unit for a secondary meat processor permit as defined by the food regulations. Their facility will then be examined by inspectors from their local health unit and Alberta Agriculture. If the processor's physical facilities and processing procedures meet the regulation's requirements, then regular inspection will be provided by Alberta Agriculture and the health unit.

The ministers of both health and agriculture departments have endorsed the regulation changes.

Copies of the new food regulations will be available soon to individuals interested in registering as secondary meat processors.

For more information, contact Debbie Moonie at Environmental Health Services at 427-2643, or Summers at the meat hygiene branch at 427-3456.

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Contact: Dr. George Summers
427-3456

Debbie Moonie
427-2643

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Seven new productions hit district video library shelves

Coming soon to your own small screen can be seven spring video releases from Alberta Agriculture's broadcast media branch.

All the new video productions are available at district video libraries in Alberta Agriculture district offices across the province. Their topics range from production issues to developing leadership skills in rural organizations.

"Don't Gamble with Pesticides" (VT 363-1) describes how safety conscious farmers can minimize exposure to pesticides. "The video discusses levels of toxicity, proper use of protective clothing and equipment, acute and chronic effects of pesticides, safe storage, good personal hygiene and laundry practices," says German Vidal, Alberta Agriculture broadcast media producer. The video is 18 minutes long.

Vidal also produced an 18-minute look at the Russian wheat aphid (VT 621). The video features Alberta Agriculture entomologist Jim Jones and Agriculture Canada's Rick Butts discussing how to recognize the pest, controls, walking surveys, and farming practices and weather patterns that affect the pest. This video isn't available at district video libraries north of Edmonton.

Another production oriented topic is found in the 16-minute "Yield Signs" (VT 531). This video examines macro and micro soil deficiencies emphasizing the importance of soil testing and proper fertilizer management in producing healthy, high yielding crops.

Moving from the field to the dairy barn, another new video profiles the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) program (VT 410-43). DHI has been used for 30 years in Alberta to help dairy operators increase their production and market their cattle. DHI's two service levels and variety of associated terms such as breed class average (BCA), BCA deviations, DHI information transfer and heifer management are discussed in the 16-minute production.

(Cont'd)

A current production issue for the agriculture industry is sustainable agriculture. Experts discuss this topic in the half hour "Sustainable Agriculture 1991 Panel Discussion" (VT 516-5). The panelists were participants at a series of travelling workshops in February. Farm broadcaster Noel McNaughton is the moderator.

Another issue for some farmers is an off- or non-farm income. "A Business in Your Future; A Future in Your Business" (VT 818-11) describes how to stay at home and run a successful business. Two home-based entrepreneurs share their insights in a 14-minute video narrated by Edmonton radio personality Rob Christie.

Leadership is the focus of "Taking Charge" (VT 392-1-1). The 16-minute production follows the story of a farm couple as they try to change a government regulation. The pair learns about getting involved and how to become leaders in their growers' association.

"This production is part of the Alberta LEAD program that has targeted leadership development in rural Alberta. The interwoven story shows how vital leadership skills are to the general membership of an organization, and how those skills can be developed," says Rob Thirlwell, Alberta Agriculture broadcast media producer.

A 16 mm film version of "Taking Charge" is available for loan through the department's central film library in Edmonton. Write it at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6, for loan information.

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Contact: Rob Thirlwell
427-2127

Ken Blackley
427-2127

German Vidal
427-2127

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Barley, canola producers surveyed to update production practices

About 1,000 Alberta canola and barley producers will detail how they grow their crops this year for an Alberta Agriculture survey.

The producers will answer a lengthy two-part questionnaire covering all aspects of production, from crop rotation through seeding to harvest yields. All the results will be compiled and analyzed by Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe to determine high yield production practices.

"We'll use the best and most successful production practices we find out from the producers, plus the latest research, to update and rewrite our barley and canola production manuals," says Murray McLelland, supervisor of field crops.

In 1981 Alberta Agriculture did a similar survey, but it was limited to central Alberta. McLelland says producer response then was very positive and encouraged more surveys in an expanded area. The 1991 survey is for the whole province and is broken down into nine agro-ecological areas plus an overlaid irrigation area.

Farmer participation is key to the project's success adds Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops. "We need and appreciate their help and support. Basically, they're helping themselves in the long-run by taking part in our survey."

Participating farmers were chosen by local district agriculturists. Each farmer will receive a copy of the new manuals for taking part in survey.

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Contact: Murray McLelland
782-4641

Phil Thomas
782-4641

EDITOR'S NOTE

To: Editors and News Directors

The following series of six articles detail the use of protective clothing so farmers can handle pesticides more safely and with less risk of exposure. We hope you will be able to use one or more of the articles to remind farmers protective clothing is an important part of their work routine.

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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Protection the farm fashion statement when handling pesticides

For a farmer to earn best dressed list honors when handling pesticides, protective clothing is the only fashion statement to make says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Making that best dressed list isn't just a matter of 'looking good', it's a matter of common sense," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist. "Wearing protective clothing when handling pesticides is just part of good general safety practices on the farm."

Protective clothing acts as a barrier to skin absorption of pesticides. Other equipment, such as a respirator and ear plugs, protects other body parts.

Basic protective clothing includes a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, unlined nitrile or neoprene gloves, neoprene overboots or long rubber boots and a wide brimmed hard hat. Extra layers of protection, such as disposal coveralls and an apron, provide added protection.

Extra protection for handling concentrates and particularly toxic products includes a variety of safety equipment. This extra protection includes goggles or a face shield, ear plugs, respirator, chemically resistant coveralls and a waterproof apron. "We recommend you check the label of the pesticides you're going to use. Extra protection is necessary when working with a highly toxic pesticide and the label will give you information about whether a respirator and other extra protection is recommended," says Eggertson.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Hands on protection in gloves

Wearing protective gloves is one of the most critical parts of handling farm chemicals safely says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"We know hands account for the greatest percentage of exposure when a farmer works with pesticides--anywhere from 27 per cent to over 90 per cent of total chemical exposure--so, putting on the right gloves is a very important part of your safety protection," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist.

The recommended gloves aren't expensive, about $4 per pair, and are reusable up to a point. "The investment you make in the right type of gloves certainly is worth it for your health's sake," she says.

"Gloves should be worn when handling, mixing or pouring concentrates," she adds, "and, when adjusting spray equipment and during application if you are directly exposed to spray."

Cloth and leather gloves must never be used. They absorb chemicals and then are a continuous source of contamination.

Unlined nitrile and neoprene gloves are recommended as the best protection. As an added means of safety, form a cuff on the glove and wear it under the coverall sleeve. This prevents spills and splashes from running down the arms. "Farmers must always be careful not to contaminate the inside of their gloves," she adds.

A number of gloves aren't recommended for use when working with pesticides. Avoid using latex rubber, natural rubber, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polyvinyl alcohol (PVA).

"The yellow PVC glove is really popular with agricultural workers, but it's a bad choice when working with pesticides, particularly when it has a lining. As a general rule, avoid using lined gloves because they're hard to clean," Eggertson says.

(Cont'd)

She also advises checking with the supplier to find out what their gloves are made from. "Nitrile gloves, the type we recommend, are readily available, but so are a number of other types of gloves. If your supplier can't tell you what it's made from, insist on checking it out with the manufacturer before you make your purchase."

Some manufacturers supply gloves with their chemical she notes. "Most provide nitrile gloves, but before you use them, do check them out."

Safe handling extends to taking care of the gloves. Wash the gloves before taking them off. Then wash inside and out and check for holes by filling them full of water. Replace gloves immediately when they crack, rip, have pin holes or discolor.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture your guide to protective clothing

If you need a question about protective clothing answered, Alberta Agriculture has the materials and the people who can help you.

A wide array of self-help information is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. Two of the newest information guides are an updated brochure and video says Bertha Eggertson. As provincial clothing and textiles specialist Eggertson has been closely involved in developing information for farmers and farm families related to protective clothing including the new brochure and video.

The brochure's title asks: "Handling pesticides: Are you protected?" (Homedex 1353-90). Inside it outlines minimum and extra layers of protective clothing with pictures and written details, describes exposure and levels of pesticide toxicity and how to take care of protective clothing and equipment.

"Don't Gamble with Pesticides" is a new Alberta Agriculture produced video about protective clothing. The 18-minute video is available for loan from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. "As well as detailing what to use as protective clothing, this video discusses personal hygiene, levels of toxicity and potential acute and chronic effects of pesticides," she says.

Alberta Agriculture's "blue book", the annual guide to chemical crop protection includes sections on safety precautions and first aid. "The blue book takes a very thorough look at warning symbols, reducing exposure and recommended protective clothing and equipment. It also describes symptoms of poisoning, the poison information telephone numbers and telephone numbers of manufacturers with emergency telephone lines," says Eggertson.

As well, Eggertson encourages farm families to contact their local district office if they have questions. "District home economists and agriculturists can and do answer many questions and provide advice, from mixing chemicals to laundering protective clothing."

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Take out contact lenses, put in ear plugs

Two of the newest pieces of advice Alberta Agriculture specialists have for farmers handling pesticides involves their eyes and ears.

"Contacts lenses are definitely on the what to avoid wearing list," says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture provincial clothing and textiles specialist, "and we're now also recommending farmers wear ear plugs because of the potential high rate of absorption through the ear canal."

Protective clothing is one of Eggertson's areas of expertise and she is involved in the department's ongoing awareness campaign to keep farmers and farm families up-to-date with the latest safety information.

"Most farmers don't wear their contact lenses while doing field work because of the dust factor. We're also advising anyone who might wear their contacts while applying pesticides, not to, because the lenses absorb chemicals and hold it in contact with the eye." she says.

Soft contact lenses are nearly impossible to clean. Joining contact lenses on the not to wear list because they are difficult to clean are: cloth or leather gloves, canvas or leather shoes or boots, leather watch straps or belts and fabric baseball-style caps.

A new recommendation in complete protective gear is to use disposable ear plugs when sprays are likely to come in contact with the head. "While the ear probably has very little chance of exposure, it does have a relatively high absorption rate, 5.4 times the rate of the forearm. So, to lessen the risk, we're advising farmers wear ear plugs when applying pesticides," she says.

Minimum protective clothing includes a hard hat, coveralls (over long-sleeved shirt and full-length pants), unlined nitrile or neoprene gloves and neoprene or rubber boots.

Eggertson says research about protective clothing is continuing. Research involves farmer attitudes about protective clothing, such as gloves and disposal coveralls, as well as the safety measures themselves.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Absorption why protective clothing necessary

Most human exposure to pesticide comes through the skin, so protective clothing is a barrier to exposure says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"While pesticides can be absorbed through various parts of the body including the eyes, stomach or lungs, the vast majority of human contact involves the skin," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist.

The first layers of protection are long sleeved shirt and pants followed by coveralls. Extra layers can include a set of disposal coveralls and waterproof apron. These cover most of the body. As well, gloves are an extremely important part of protective clothing because most skin exposure, between 27 and 90 per cent of total exposure, involves the hands.

However, a number of body areas require special attention because of their relatively high absorption rates says Eggertson. "One of the most vulnerable areas is the groin with an absorption rate 11.8 times greater than the forearm. So, if the farmer is mixing or handling concentrated chemicals, wearing a waterproof apron will provide extra protection for that area."

The head also has areas with relatively high absorption rates. (All absorption rates are compared to the forearm's 1.0 rate.) The ear canal's rate is 5.4, the scalp 3.7 and the forehead 4.7. "While these areas are less likely to be in direct contact with a farm chemical, there is always the chance of a splash or spill. To protect yourself, use disposable ear plugs and wear a wide-brimmed hard hat," says Eggertson.

Other absorption rates to note are the ball of the foot at 1.6, the palm of the hand at 1.3 and the abdomen at 2.1.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Washing you and your clothes after pesticide use

When finished handling and applying pesticides farmers should head immediately to the shower says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Farmers can't ignore personal hygiene as part of the safety routine," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist. "If they don't shower and shampoo their hair after using pesticides, they could increase their chance of exposure. For example, pesticides can enter the body through the mouth if you don't wash properly and then, eat, drink or smoke. For the same reason, farmers shouldn't carry gum or candy in their pockets while spraying and, obviously, not touch sprayer parts with their mouths."

Skin can absorb chemicals from inadequately cleaned clothing and equipment, so the washing routine demands special care. Farmers should remove clothing and equipment outside and take pesticide granules from cuffs and pockets while outdoors.

Eggertson offers a number of tips to handle and wash pesticide soiled clothing. Start by using nitrile gloves to handle the soiled clothing. Discard any garment saturated with a chemical concentrate. For temporary storage before washing, use a plastic bag. To discard any disposable clothing, place in a plastic bag and take to an approved landfill site.

"If you're spraying every day for a week, wash your protective clothing daily. That includes your protective equipment as well. This prevents a build-up of pesticide residues and minimizes exposure risk," she says.

Protective clothing should be washed separately from regular laundry. Pre-treat with a stain remover or use a pre-rinse/soak cycle on your washing machine. Use the hot water setting, full water level and a normal cycle plus an extra heavy duty detergent as recommended for heavily soiled clothing, then repeat the wash. When finished, run the empty washer through a full cycle with hot water and detergent. Line drying prevents contamination of the dryer and also increases chemical breakdown of any pesticide residue she notes.

Her final reminder is to use clothing worn handling pesticides for that purpose only.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 13, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PROSPECTS FOR SLAUGHTER LAMB MARKET IMPROVEMENT

Slaughter lamb prices are expected to improve as the U.S. flock decreases says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Feeder lamb prices will probably take longer to recover adds Jo Ann Cmoluch. Slaughter lamb prices dropped sharply in 1990 because of the previous year's glut, but, she says, the transition from market conditions of oversupply and contracting prices to contracting supply and strengthening prices is likely to occur this year. "As a result, feeder lambs currently on the market may turn out to be the bargain of the year, with the prospect of a steadily improving slaughter lamb market for next year," she says. Slaughter lamb prices in Alberta are expected to be steady or improve in the next few months she adds. Seasonal increases in supply, starting in mid-summer, will cause limited prices declines this fall. For more information, contact Cmoluch in Edmonton at 427-5387.

FEEDER CATTLE OUTLOOK

While feeder cattle prices in Alberta are continuing to trade above year-ago levels, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst has a word of caution. "A prolonged slump in slaughter cattle prices is likely to have some downwards impact on heavy feeder prices, but relatively tight supplies and solid export demand for feeder cattle could compensate," says Ron Gietz. The net result, he adds, will likely see feeder steers (800 to 900 lbs.) in central and northern Alberta averaging about $95 per hundredweight (cwt) in late summer. "I believe there's more downside than upside to this forecast with the main downside risks higher summer and fall barley prices, possible removal of the countervailing duty on EC beef imports in mid-July and the ever present wild card, the U.S.-Canada exchange rate." Gietz encourages producers to investigate forward contracting their feeder cattle. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

PERMANENT COVER PROGRAM AND FORAGE SEED OUTLOOK

Extension of the federal government's Permanent Cover Program will be a positive factor in the forage seed market says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. An additional 600,000 acres of marginal land across the Prairies has been targeted by the program for removal from grain production. "Removing this many acres from grain production will create a significant unexpected demand for seed. Whether and how quickly this translates into higher prices is the big question," says Al Dooley. Currently prices and sales in the forage seed market are generally depressed. One exception is creeping red fescue sales into the U.S, although those sales haven't had much impact on grower prices he says. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

PRICING THE 1991 CROP

Grain and oilseed producers need to be looking ahead to marketing their 1991 crop says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Producers should get familiar with the market outlooks and start making decisions about both old and new crops," says Charlie Pearson. Wheat quota management will be important in the coming year to maximize delivery opportunities he says. "Both CWB hard red spring and durum quotas will likely be 12 bushels per quota acre in 1991-92." Producers growing wheat specifically for the feed market are encouraged to use fall pricing opportunities over $85 per tonne to pre-price a portion of their crop. Barley growers, he says, should consider selling their remaining 1990 barley during the spring. "Growers in the areas of the province without a livestock feed market should give strong consideration to the Canadian Wheat Board barley contracting program," he adds. Canola prices have strengthened he says, and with favorable weather, Alberta prices are expected to remain close to the $265 per tonne range during the spring, falling back to between $240 and $260 this summer. Two factors are important for canola market strategies: the price spread between June contract canola futures and new crop months, and basis levels. For more information, contact Pearson in Edmonton at 427-5386.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

BEAVERLODGE BEEKEEPERS FIELD DAY JUNE 14

The 38th Beaverlodge beekeepers field day is scheduled for the Agriculture Canada Beaverlodge research station on June 14. The program includes beekeeping displays as well as research highlights. During the afternoon guest speakers, researchers and provincial apiarists will discuss bee-related topics. For more information, contact Don Nelson in Beaverlodge at 354-2212.

COWBOY POETRY ASSOCIATION MEETS JUNE 14-16 IN PINCHER CREEK

Pincher Creek is maintaining its title as the cowboy poetry capital of Canada as the Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association will hold its fourth annual "gathering" there in mid-June. The three-day event starting June 14 features cowboy poetry plus a western art show and auction, ranchers' rodeo, cowboy trading session, Alberta Beef barbeque and cowboy church service. A cowboy poet is defined as person who has maintained the tradition of writing classic cowboy poems and encouraged others to write original verse. This poetry style has enjoyed renewed interest in the last few years. Over 30 poets and 25 artists displayed their talents last year. The event is co-hosted by the Pincher Creek Agricultural Society. For more information, or reservations, call Arlene Boisjolie at 628-2405 or Anne Stevick at 627-4733.

PETRO-CANADA 4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINE

4-H members applying for Petro-Canada 4-H Youth Leadership awards are reminded their essays and 4-H scholarship applications must be at the 4-H branch in Edmonton by June 1. Four Albertans currently enrolled in 4-H are eligible for the $1,000 awards towards post-secondary education. For more information, contact the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 422-4444.

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AGRI-NEWS

May 20, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

Liming improves dugout water quality

If your dugout water turns green this summer, an Alberta Agriculture-University of Alberta research team could have a solution.

Spring and summer runoff water carries a lot of sediment and nutrients into dugouts. Both the sediment and resulting algae growth can turn the water a dirty green color. As dugouts can be both an agricultural and a domestic water supply, the problems created by the dirty water include poor taste and odor, clogged water filters and in extreme cases, death of fish, wildlife and livestock.

Over the last three years the university's zoology department and Alberta Agriculture's regional agricultural engineering technologists have been working on a joint project to improve water quality in farm dugouts. They used hydrated lime, a less toxic substance than the traditionally used copper sulfate, to control algae growth. They also found liming controlled a much broader range of dugout water problems.

Liming uses hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) to settle out algae, phosphorous, sediment and some color from the water. The hydrated lime is mixed with water and sprayed evenly across the dugout surface.

"Over the three years, the project moved quickly from research, to on-farm demonstrations to province wide acceptance in 1990," says Bob Buchanan, regional engineering technologist based in Barrhead.

In 1990 over 700 farm dugouts in the province were treated with hydrated lime with encouraging results. "The treatment showed dramatic results in some very dirty dugouts in the Spirit River-Rycroft areas, even after heavy rains in June turned the dugouts to mud soup. Over 90 per cent of the farmers were very happy with the improvement in dugout water quality following the hydrated lime treatment," Buchanan says.

The liming treatment also appears to have longer term results he adds. "From the dugouts treated in 1988 and 1989, it appears that liming will improve water quality for one to two years after treatment."

(Cont'd)

Liming improves dugout water quality (cont'd)

Research is continuing to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of liming to control rooted dugout plants, color removal and water softening.

The liming treatment's success has spurred business opportunities with the number of custom lime applicators growing to 15.

Handling and using hydrated lime means following precautions Buchanan notes. "Discuss these thoroughly with custom lime applicators or, district or regional Alberta Agriculture staff before liming your dugout. In all cases, the dugout should be measured and the water tested to determine the proper amount of hydrated lime required."

Technical information, including some typical liming systems, is available by contacting Buchanan in Barrhead at 674-8252, or one of the other regional engineering technologists, Ken Williamson in Red Deer at 240-5342 or Orin Kenzie in Lethbridge at 381-5112.

Buchanan says the liming project is an excellent example of how research and extension specialists can work together. The University of Alberta team was headed by Ellie Prepas, who has worked on a number of water quality related research projects.

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Contact: Bob Buchanan
674-8252

Ken Williamson
240-5342

Orin Kenzie
381-5112

Dr. Ellie Prepas
492-1290

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

Rotate herbicides to avoid weed resistance problems

Farmers need to keep a close eye on wild oats in their fields and maintain good crop and herbicide rotations to avoid having herbicide resistance problems.

John O'Donovan, weed scientist at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, says at this stage no one is sure how serious or extensive the wild oat herbicide resistance problem is in Alberta, but farmers should be aware of the potential problem. His group has tested a number of wild oat samples in the last two years that were resistant to the commonly used pre-emergent herbicide Avadex BW.

"We may be just seeing the tip of the iceberg or we may be seeing the full extent of the problem," he says of the 16 fields found with the Avadex resistance in 1990. So far, he adds, the problem seems to be restricted to the black soil zone where farmers have been using Avadex continuously for between 10 and 20 years.

In any given field there may be a resistant weed species represented in a tiny proportion of the field--maybe as little as one plant in a billion. As farmers use the same herbicide year after year, they give the resistant species more room to set seed and multiply. So, from the single plant to a patch in a field, the resistant weeds can eventually take over the field.

Another very serious finding by O'Donovan's research team was that the Avadex resistant wild oats were also quite tolerant to the post-emergent herbicide Avenge. "There seems to be some link as far as resistance is concerned, which is quite surprising because these herbicides belong to two different classes," says O'Donovan. He adds the Avenge tolerance was found in greenhouse conditions and further testing will be done under field conditions.

Research is being conducted on a number of other post-emergent herbicides. "Some have worked quite effectively on the Avadex tolerant wild oats. These include Poast and Fusilade. Work with others appears to show a greater trend towards poorer control of the Avadex resistant populations compared to populations susceptible to Avadex, but quite a bit more study is required," he says.

(Cont'd)

Rotate herbicides to avoid weed resistance problems (cont'd)

O'Donovan's advice to farmers is to rotate herbicides as much as possible to avoid resistant species from getting a foothold in their fields. "This doesn't apply only to rotating individual herbicides, but to rotating herbicides of different classes and different modes of action," he says.

He notes herbicide resistance to wild oats hasn't only been noticed in Alberta. "Around the same time as we discovered the problem with Avadex and Avenge, a number of wild oat populations were found in Manitoba that are resistant to Hoe-Grass, Poast, Fusilade, Excel and Triumph Plus. While some of these herbicides belong to different classes, they all act on the same enzyme in the plant. That's why rotating the mode of action is also important," he says.

Another way to avoid resistance problems is to use herbicides only when they're necessary and when it's economical to apply them, he adds.

Herbicide resistant chickweed and green foxtail have also been identified in Alberta and elsewhere in the Prairies.

If farmers notice a weed patch that tends to grow every year, even though an effective herbicide has been applied, they should be suspicious says O'Donovan. Another indication is one broad-leaf weed being controlled by the herbicide, while another one grows in abundance; the plentiful weed may be developing a resistance to a particular herbicide.

If farmers suspect a resistance problem in their field, they can contact: their Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist; Walter Yarish or Denise Maurice at Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton at 427-7098; or, O'Donovan in Vegreville at 632-8208.

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Contact: Dr. John O'Donovan
632-8208

Walter Yarish
427-7098

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

Farm training program revamped

Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate Farm Training Program starts its new look program this summer.

"The green certificate program has been reorganized using fewer resources, but will continue to meet the need Alberta farmers have for trained staff," says Robert Hornbrook, supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's farm training section.

The program's first initiative since the reorganization will focus on swine, dairy, cow-calf and feedlot training. It begins this summer, and interested applicants are encouraged to apply by June 1.

The green certificate program began helping Alberta farmers meet their staffing needs in 1975. Since then, hundreds of graduates have filled jobs as technicians, herdsmen and farm managers.

"Through the program, individuals thinking of a farming career can gain knowledge and qualifications while earning and learning from a co-operating farmer," says Hornbrook. "As well, current farm employees can upgrade their skills and obtain industry certification."

Trainees start the program with a group induction. Each week the trainer farmer and trainee plan and manage the on-the-job training. Off-farm courses, performance assessment and certification are all part of the program.

"Farm employers and trainees must commit to the work and responsibilities of the program. Employers are compensated for the job of training," says Hornbrook. He notes the co-operating farmer's farm is usually large enough to supply adequate learning experiences. The common sizes are: 100 sow or more farrow-to-finish for swine; 45 to 50 milking cows for dairy; 150 to 200 cows for cow-calf; and, 1,000 head or more on feed at a feedlot.

Program brochures and applications are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices, or from the farm training section in Edmonton at 427-2174.

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Contact: Robert Hornbrook
427-2173

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

Selecting and planting bedding plants

Adding color to your summer with bedding plants starts with preparing soil and choosing the most suitable plants says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Before you buy annuals you have some work to do and decisions to make," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton. "Every two years organic matter should be added to the soil. Add at least a half inch of peat moss, compost or well rotted manure. Also apply an all purpose garden fertilizer like 16-20-0. Ideally, a soil test should also be done," she adds.

Before choosing annuals, consider their location. If the garden is in a shady area, choose begonias, impatiens and violas. Geraniums, marigolds, petunias, zinnias, snapdragons and portulaca thrive in bright sunny areas.

"There are lots of new varieties to try as well. Some examples are celosia 'castle' pink, 'freckles' geraniums and pansy maxim marina. The nice thing about annuals is that you can try something different in your garden every year," she says.

When buying plants choose stocky, dark green vigorous plants with no yellow leaves. She also recommends buying compact plants, not spindly ones.

Evenings or a cool day are the best time to transplant bedding plants. "If you transplant when it's hot and sunny, it may cause the plants to suffer from transplant shock," she adds.

North has several other transplanting tips. First, dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system. If the plants aren't grown in cell packs, gently separate the plants keeping as much soil around the roots as possible. Leave a slight depression or well around the plant to hold water and water the plant well. Bedding plants can be fertilized when they are transplanted. North suggests watering them with a high phosphorous fertilizer starter solution such as 10-52-10.

North also warns if there is a risk of frost to be prepared to cover plants to protect them. Tarps, burlap or old sheets over stakes can be used to shield plants from frost.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

June good time to seed lawns

June is usually the best time of the year to seed lawns says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Because the soil is warm and there is usually plenty of rain, this is a good month to put in a lawn, however they can be seeded up to August 31," says Pam North, of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Before seeding, prepare the seed bed. "If possible have 15 cm of good quality top soil. A 2.5 cm layer of peat moss may be incorporated into the topsoil. Don't over apply the peat moss or you'll have a spongy lawn," she says. Weed control is also important, especially of grassy weeds. She recommends cultivating or using herbicides for control before seeding.

Ideally, a soil test should be taken to determine the type and amount of fertilizer to use when seeding. A high phosphorous fertilizer, for example 11-55-0 or 11-51-0, is usually a good choice. Fertilizer can be incorporated into the soil with a rake to a depth of five cm.

What type of seed mix to use for a lawn depends on whether the area is sunny or shady. "In a sunny area, the mix should be 70 to 80 per cent Kentucky bluegrass and 20 to 30 per cent creeping red fescue. Shady locations are better with more creeping red fescue, a mix of 50 to 70 per cent, with the remaining 30 to 50 per cent Kentucky bluegrass," she says.

The soil surface should be packed and levelled to remove hills or depressions before seeding. When grading, the topsoil should be level with the sidewalk. Seed can be spread by hand or with a mechanical spreader. To ensure even coverage, sow half the seed over the lawn in one direction and then spread the rest from a different direction. After seeding, rake lightly to cover the seed. The soil must be kept moist until the seed germinates, and may require daily light waterings for three to four weeks.

A new lawn shouldn't have heavy traffic for about two months. Once it grows 7.5 cm tall, it should be cut back to four to five cm. Selective herbicides shouldn't be used until the lawn has been mown at least twice.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

New faces at the 4-H Foundation of Alberta

The 4-H Foundation of Alberta said farewell to several long standing board members and welcomed new faces at its recent annual meeting.

Allan Shenfield, the foundation's first chairman, retired from the foundation board. Shenfield, of Spruce Grove, has a 40-year involvement with 4-H and through those years watched the birth and growth of the foundation's Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. Bob Boulton of Lousana, another veteran 4-H volunteer, and Tim Brewin of Taber also stepped down.

All three retiring members were thanked for their tireless efforts and valuable contributions to the foundation throughout their tenures.

New faces on the foundation are Bill McGrath of Vermilion and Jerry Hall of Calgary. McGrath replaces Brewin as an Alberta 4-H Council representative for a one year term. Hall, a former Alberta Wheat Pool employee, has been appointed for a three year term. Ed Ness of Calgary, a foundation board member since 1982, was reappointed to the board for another three years.

Elections for the chairman and vice chairman were also held during the annual meeting. Barry McDonald of St. Paul, the former vice chairman, will take over the chairmanship from Herman Grosfield of Brooks.

"I look forward to accepting the challenge of chairing the foundation," said McDonald after praising Grosfield for the excellent job he'd done over the last three years. "The directors are committed to working together as a unit to provide better service for 4-H members, the 4-H council, the 4-H branch and 4-H clubs. This spirit of working together is the vehicle that will carry us through the new challenges of the 1990s and into the next decade."

Stepping into the vice chairmanship is Angus Park of Trochu, the current president of the Alberta 4-H Council.

For more information about the foundation or any of its program, contact Vicki Berger, secretary manager in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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Contact: Vicki Berger
427-2541

May 20, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appointments

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN VEGREVILLE

John Vanderleest has joined Alberta Agriculture's Vegreville district office as district agriculturist. Vanderleest has been with the department since 1978, starting as district agriculturist in Westlock. He was also district agriculturist in Thorhild, and most recently was the dairy production specialist in Red Deer since 1985. Born and raised in Holland, Vanderleest has a mixed farming background. He holds both a BA and BSc (agriculture) from the University of Alberta. Vanderleest says he's looks forward to meeting with producers, agribusinesses and farm organizations in the Vegreville area and sharing his formula for success: "You don't have to lie awake at night to succeed; just stay awake days". Vanderleest can be contacted in Vegreville at 632-5400.

CORONATION HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Jeff Millang is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist based in Coronation, serving Special Area No. 4 and the County of Paintearth. Millang has spent the last four years in the Three Hills district office. He also is familiar with his new area, as he worked out of the Stettler regional 4-H office during the summer of 1986. A graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program, Millang's area of speciality was beef and beef management. In the last four years he's worked extensively with financial management and marketing. Millang hails from northeast of Camrose and a purebred cattle and grain farm. "I'm looking forward to the challenges and experiences of the new district, and I encourage farmers to stop in the office or give me a call," he says. Millang can be contacted in Coronation at 578-3970.

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May 20, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

NW REGIONAL CONSERVATION TOUR IN LEDUC AREA ON JUNE 12

A day-long tour of conservation sites in the Leduc area on June 12 will be capped by honoring the northwest region's conservation farmer of the year. As well, Grant MacEwan, former Alberta lieutenant governor and conservationist, will speak. The Leduc Elks Club is the headquarters for the tour start and meals. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and features conservation equipment and material displays along with coffee and doughnuts. Preregistration is required by May 31. The morning tour includes equipment and water erosion control demonstrations, zero till plots, liming, salinity reclamation at Alberta's first oilwell site Leduc #1 and land use alternatives at the Capital City Raceway. The afternoon tour takes in a Ducks Unlimited project involving solonetzic soils, a spring blackflood project, deep ripping and zero till for forage establishment and rotational grazing for dairy cows featuring a water supply and solar fencing system. The day concludes with a barbeque steak supper, award presentation and guest speaker MacEwan. The $25 registration includes both meals and bus transportation for the tour. For more information, contact Elmer Bittner, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Leduc at 986-8985, or any district office in the northwest region.

NEW SEED AND GRAIN PROGRAM OFFERED AT OLDS COLLEGE

Olds College will offer a new seed and grain technology diploma program on a two-year trial basis starting this September. The provincial advanced education department recently gave the go-ahead to the program which will be the only one in Canada geared directly to the seed and grain industry. The college will be able to enroll 20 students in the new program. Its graduates can look to career opportunities as seed marketers, seed analysts, grain inspectors, elevator managers and farm service and supply managers. "We've been working on a training program for the seed and grain industry for more than a decade," says Bob Lockwood, Olds College vice president. "It's great

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

NEW SEED AND GRAIN PROGRAM OFFERED AT OLDS COLLEGE (cont'd)

to know that the efforts of both the college and industry people who have worked with us are finally paying off." The seed and grain sectors are the primary source of program funding. More than half of the $200,000 needed to launch the program has been received in donations and gifts-in-kind from corporations, companies, agencies and individuals. For more information about the new seed and grain technology program, contact Bill Souster, dean of land science, at 556-8260. Prospective students can call the college toll-free at 1-800-661-OLDS.

AGRICULTURE TOPIC AT COLD REGION DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

The 1991 international symposium on cold region development (ISCORD) will be held in Edmonton June 16 through 21. ISCORD's technical program includes agricultural topics along with seven other major areas from community planning to transportation. A technology showcase June 18 through 20 features the latest technology in cold climate development. Technical tours run the same three days. For registration information call Chris McLaren at 487-8102, or for general information contact Kathie Skogg at 438-7510.

GREENHOUSE REPLACEMENT CONTRACT AWARDED

A $385,100 contract has been awarded to replace greenhouses at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. Outdated greenhouses will be replaced with new design facilities. They will be used for propagation, research and other work related to the center's mandate. The contract was awarded to First Quality Greenhouses and Supplies Ltd. of Calgary. The contract award was announced by Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley, Public Works Minister Ken Kowalski and Tom Musgrove, Bow Valley MLA. For more information, contact Tom Krahn, the center's director, at 362-3391.

LIME FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISCONTINUED

A government program that assisted farmers with the cost of transporting agricultural lime and marl was discontinued in the last provincial budget.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

LIME FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISCONTINUED (cont'd)

The Agricultural Lime Freight Assistance Program was implemented in June 1981 and ended on April 1, 1991. While the program's end is part of balancing the provincial budget, the government has also indicated there would be less need for some current support programs in light of the long term federal-provincial safety net program for grain and oilseed producers. Government assistance was 80 per cent of total freight costs above $5.50 per tonne. The purpose of the program was to make lime available to all farmers at approximately the same cost regardless of their location in the province. The program had an annual budget of $100,000. Lime and marl are used to neutralize acid soils which are found in central Alberta and the Peace region. "Alberta Agriculture has notified lime dealers and manufacturers of the program's end, as well as all department district offices," says Doug Penney, acting head of the soils branch. For more information, call Penney or Jerome Lickacz at 427-2530.

PANEL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHT AT AG ENGINEERING MEETING

Four panellists will discuss the future and need for agricultural engineers at the Alberta regional meeting of the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering (CSAE) May 31 in Lethbridge. The panellists are: Edward Hiler, president-elect of the 10,000 member American Society of Agricultural Engineers and deputy chancellor of Texas A&M University; Eric Jensen, president of an agricultural research and consulting company and chief executive officer of Canadian Agtechnology Partners which markets advanced agricultural technology world-wide; Peter McCornick, assistant professor at the University of Alberta's agricultural engineering department; and, Rich Smith, Alberta Agriculture regional agricultural engineer. The discussion will be moderated by Martin Wrubleski, CSAE president. Technical sessions are also part of the two days of meetings, as is an engineer's perspective tour of the Oldman River Dam. For more information, call Reed Turner in Lethbridge at 329-1212 or Murray Green in Airdrie at 948-8525.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

AGRI-NEWS

May 27, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta's farmers urged to support agriculture census

Participating in the federal Census of Agriculture may be one of the most important things an Alberta farmer will do this year says Alberta Agriculture's deputy minister.

"The information collected in each agriculture census is extremely valuable," says Ben McEwen. "Particularly, in a time when the agriculture and agri-food industry is undergoing major shifts, this data will show some of the land and business management changes that have been made since the 1986 census.

"All levels of government and the industry itself make policy and business decisions based on what the census tells them. From a provincial perspective, the small area, municipal data the census provides can rarely be obtained in surveys. For these reasons, Alberta Agriculture supports the census and certainly encourages all Alberta farm families to do their part for both themselves and their industry by completing the census form by June 4."

This week (from May 27) census representatives will be dropping off the 1991 Census of Agriculture and Population questionnaires at farms across the province. Farmers are asked to complete the forms by the national June 4 Census Day and then mail them to the specified address on the return envelope.

Farm families will note one striking change in the questionnaire. Statistics Canada is attempting an accurate count of the women and other family members who are joint-operators of a family farm. The census form allows for more than one person to be identified as a farm operator.

The agricultural census asks questions about crops, livestock, farm income, paid agricultural labour, land management practices and other relevant topics.

Since 1971 the agriculture and population censuses have been linked. This link enables Statistics Canada to collect important demographic data about the social, economic and educational characteristics of Canadian farmers.

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Contact: David Walker
427-4011

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Isley announces terms of Lambco sale

CWFC Canada West Foods (Alberta) Corp. will pay $2 million for the fixed assets of Lambco.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley recently announced the terms of sale for the lamb, sheep and veal processing plant, calling the transaction "profitable for the taxpayers of Alberta". He notes the government's original 1977 investment in Lambco of $1.6 million has been recovered. "At the time of closing, the government will gain an immediate profit of approximately $3.3 million, for a return of $4.9 million to the taxpayers of this province, plus an additional $1.5 million vendor term loan to be repaid by the purchaser."

Terms of the sale include a $1.5 million vendor loan from the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) for the purchase of the fixed assets. The loan is vendor financing provided by ADC, and is secured by the facility and guarantees from the shareholders. The balance of the $2 million fixed asset purchase price is being funded from shareholders' resources.

Isley says the government reviewed a number of proposals from the private sector for the purchase, with the guiding objectives of economic diversification and development of the lamb and veal industry. Negotiations with the principals of the newly-formed company have been going on since February 1991.

The Lambco facility in Innisfail was opened in 1975 as a co-operative. In 1977 after the co-operative encountered financial difficulties, the government took over the operation to ensure Alberta producers had a market for their product. In recent years, Lambco has consistently been profitable. By 1991, the company, which processes approximately 80,000 head per year, enjoyed sales in excess of $13 million.

Isley says the future of Lambco and the sheep and veal industry in Alberta is strong. "I'm confident that Lambco will continue to develop new markets for Alberta lamb, sheep and veal, and that our producers will enjoy the benefits of a healthy and progressive industry."

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Bob Splane
679-1302

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Fertilizer spills can kill livestock

Fertilizer spills in pastures or around farm buildings can pose a problem for grazing cattle and sheep warns an Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist.

"Urea, one of the most common nitrogen fertilizers, can kill an animal in 30 minutes, if enough is consumed in a short time period. For a mature cow, that's a pound of urea fertilizer in a feeding, and for a sheep, one-eighth of a pound in a feeding," says Barry Yaremcio of the beef cattle and sheep branch. "So, if you do have a spill, clean it up and prevent a problem from happening."

Grain augers used to load trucks or fertilizer spreaders are another way urea can unintentionally make it's way into livestock feed. "Clean out your auger between using it for fertilizer and for livestock feed," he advises.

Urea breaks down to ammonia in the rumen and then passes quickly into the bloodstream. Ammonia toxicity affects the red blood cells making them unable to release the carbon dioxide they remove from the body. This prevents oxygen from being carried from the lungs to the rest of the body. The ammonia poisoning causes the animal to suffocate.

Symptoms of ammonia poisoning appear 20 to 30 minutes after the animal eats urea. Animals will bellow, appear to have sunken eyes and skin looses its elasticity from dehydration. Dullness, high temperatures, laboured breathing and muscle tremors can occur.

An emergency treatment for ammonia poisoning is tube feeding vinegar. Four litres of vinegar is needed for a mature cow, one litre for a mature sheep. "It's advisable to call a veterinarian for a recommended follow-up treatment and to check the animal," he says.

Yaremcio notes feed grade urea is commonly added to feed rations to increase the crude protein content. However, it's fed in small amounts, well blended in the rest of the feed and animals adjust to what they eat throughout the day. "In these controlled feeding situations, there shouldn't be a problem," he says.

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Contact: Barry Yaremcio
427-6361

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Reduce garbage by buying, building home composter

Many people want to reduce their garbage by composting, but are often unsure about how they should go about starting their own home composting project says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"People want to compost, but aren't sure of the best way to go about it: Should they buy a commercial composter, or build their own? How big should their composter be and how does the whole process work?," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Through the composting process, raw organic material is converted into a useful soil additive. When added to the soil, it loosens soil and makes it easier to work. As well, putting organic "garbage" into a compost pile instead of conventional garbage disposal contributes to a better environment.

A variety of commercial composters are currently on the market, but people can easily make their own says North. "Start by building a frame for your pile. We recommend building a frame because it keeps the pile neater and more compact."

The frame can be built from a variety of materials. Cedar or pressure treated wood can be used to make the basic frame. Sides can be either plywood or wire. The compost dries out more quickly with wire sides. While the frame size should be about a cubic metre, it's not recommended that the structure be any deeper than about 1.5 metres (about five feet), she says.

"You can compost almost anything that's organic. About one-third of household waste is compostable. For example, most kitchen scraps are suitable for the compost pile. Those scraps include vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds. But don't add meat and dairy products," North says.

Garden refuse, such as grass clippings, leaves and other non-woody yard waste, is another source of material for the compost pile. To speed up the process, chop or shred large pieces of material.

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North has two precautions about garden "garbage". "It's not recommended you use diseased plant materials in the compost pile. As well, if you've used a herbicide on your lawn to kill dandelions or other weeds, cut the lawn at least twice before using clippings in the compost pile," she says.

Items that shouldn't be added to the compost pile are pet droppings, coniferous needles, plastic, glass and any type of metals.

For best results compost materials should be layered 15 to 20 cm deep. "Sprinkle soil between layers to provide additional microbes that will speed up decomposition. Fertilizer such as 21-0-0 or 16-20-0 will also aid decomposition. Sprinkle a handful once a month," she says.

Turning the pile once a week to add oxygen is important. As well, turning brings outer materials into the centre and speeds up decomposition." To work best, the pile should be kept moist, she says, but it shouldn't be soggy.

Composting is a relatively slow process. "If you start a compost pile this spring, it should be ready to spread over your garden the following spring," says North.

Reprints of an Environment Council of Alberta "Home Composting: How to build and maintain a compost bin" publication are available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Use container gardening for colorful patio

Colorful decks and patios are easy with container gardening says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"There's a tremendous variety of container sizes and shapes in wood, plastic and clay. Plus, you can use unusual containers such as an old kettle or wheelbarrow," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

"The most important consideration is the drainage in the container. If it's inadequate, the soil may get waterlogged and that can lead to root rot," she says.

One of the other keys to successful container gardening is a good growing media. "It must hold moisture, drain well and allow oxygen to get to the plant roots. Garden soil alone isn't suitable," she says. Prepackaged mixes from garden centres and greenhouses are available. A soil based or a soilless media are both appropriate.

Regular fertilizing is also important. "Because the containers are watered frequently, nutrients are constantly leached out of the growing media. We recommend a water soluble 20-20-20 or 10-15-10 fertilizer," she says. Soil based media will need fertilizer every two to three weeks, soilless mixes more often. North says plant vigor will help determine when fertilizer is needed.

Many factors influence how often containers need to be watered including the container's size, what it's made from, plant size, growing media and the container's location. Allow the top half inch to inch to dry out between waterings. "Containers may dry out quickly, so check daily," she says.

Containers offer versatility in the type of plants that can be used. "The rules are simple," adds North. Choose plants suitable for the location. When mixing annuals, size, color and texture should be complimentary. For a flowing appearance, plant low or hanging plants at the front, tall plants at the back or middle, and medium size plants in between. Don't skimp on numbers, or you won't have a nice mass effect.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Controlling birch leaf miner

Birch leaf miner is a serious problem across the province, so it's important to control the pest says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Birch leaf miner is a common pest on birch trees. Trees attacked by birch leaf miner for several years may be weakened and are easier prey for other insects and diseases," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Leaf miner damage first appears as light green areas on leaves. These spots enlarge and become brown and papery. "What you're seeing is damage from the larvae feeding within the leaf," she says.

Most damage done by the pest is from the species of leaf miner that attacks in July. This makes the first week of June a good time for applying a systemic pesticide.

Dimenthoate as a soil drench is a recommended control for leaf miner. It's applied to the soil in the dripline area. Dig six to eight shallow holes, no deeper than six inches, around the tree. Apply the pesticide in these holes, and then water.

Read the label for rate of application advises North, who has several other tips on pesticide use. "The amount you use is based on the trunk diameter, measure that four feet from the ground. Don't apply more than is recommended on the label, and don't apply it to newly transplanted birch trees," she says.

North doesn't recommend painting dimenthoate in a band on the bark. "It's not as effective as the soil drench and may damage the bark," she says.

For more information, contact North in Edmonton at 422-1789.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

May 27, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

ALBERTA HORSEMEN BENEFIT FROM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

When the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society holds its 12th symposium in Calgary June 6 through 8, it will mark the first time the international organization holds a conference outside the U.S. As well, Alberta horse owners and breeders can attend a horseman's seminar held in conjunction with the symposium on June 8. The symposium will feature about 100 technical papers on nutrition, exercise physiology and reproductive physiology with participants from Canada, the U.S., England, Germany, Switzerland and Australia. The follow-up seminar will feature three extension specialists who will update horse owners and breeders on what new research means to them. All the evening's seminar speakers are their state's equine extension specialists. Speakers will be: Mark Russel, Purdue University, on nutrition; Karyn Malinowski, Rutgers University, reproductive physiology; and, Craig Wood, University of Kentucky, exercise physiology. The seminar will be held at the University of Calgary's Dining Centre blue room. Pre-register with Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch in Calgary by calling 297-6650.

DAIRY FARM BEAUTIFICATION COMPETITION '91

The Alberta Dairymen's Association is looking for nominations for the 1991 dairy farm beautification competition. Nominations from owners or any other source with owner consent are required by June 30. Farms will be scored on sign, building design, farmstead layout, grounds and overall impression from an evaluation committee visit. Trophies and certificates will be presented at the association's annual convention. For more information, contact the association office in Edmonton at 455-5164.

4-H ON PARADE MAY 31-JUNE 2 IN CALGARY

The Calgary 4-H region has an invitation for anyone interested in 4-H or livestock shows to come to their 16th annual "4-H on Parade" May 31 through June 1 in Calgary. One of Alberta's largest 4-H shows, the weekend of

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

4-H ON PARADE MAY 31-JUNE 2 IN CALGARY (cont'd)

activities is packed with entertainment and learning. The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede sponsors the show and it's held at the Agriculture Pavilion and Big Top. Livestock shows include regional heifer, sheep, light horse and beef carcass shows plus the Foothills/Rockyview steer show. A regional record book show plus club displays are in addition to the livestock shows. As well, the weekend starts with a regional multispecies judging clinic and competition. Fun events include lip sync and horsebowl contests. The weekend concludes with sheep and steer club sales. The Irricana Beef and Multi 4-H Club will donate a steer and the Foothills Sheep 4-H club will donate a sheep for auction, with proceeds going to the Alberta Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS). For more information, contact Andrea Church at 948-8512.

CONSERVATION FOR PROFIT FIELD DAY JUNE 27

Low cost equipment and practical equipment modifications will be highlighted at a "conservation for profit" field day at Lakeland College in Vermilion on June 27. The morning program includes discussions of moisture management, fall tillage alternatives and making conservation pay. Field demonstrations and static displays will run through part of the afternoon at the college campus. Tours to local demonstration plots in the County of Vermilion River will run between 4 and 6 p.m. There is no registration fee, but people interested in attending are asked to pre-register with the college by calling 853-8444. A free beef on the bun lunch is available for those who register. The field day is co-sponsored by North East Conservation Connections, the County of Vermilion River, the Vermilion Agriculture Society, the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS), Lakeland College and Conservation 2000. For more information, call 853-8444.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 3, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 3, 1991
For immediate release

Spring soil moisture improved by May rains

What looked like a very dry spring soil moisture picture has improved substantially with May rain throughout the province says an Alberta Agriculture soil moisture specialist.

"A provincial survey conducted in April showed conditions were generally drier than any spring since 1988," says Allan Howard of the conservation and development branch in Lethbridge. "However, a storm in late April and general rains in May have improved the soil moisture situation quite significantly."

Rains during early May improved conditions through most of the province. "Almost all of southern Alberta, the central Peace River region and much of east-central Alberta has improved to moderate moisture levels from low and very low conditions of May 1," says Howard. (**Note:** see attached provincial map.)

"Most of west-central Alberta now has high soil moisture levels," he adds, "and, conditions are now closer to normal for seeding time in all areas."

Soil moisture deficiencies can still be found in a narrow area from Athabasca south to Brooks. "Rain was required to ensure successful germination in this area, and the mid-May rains appear to have eased the immediate need in most cases. However, subsoil moisture is still deficient," he says.

The rains have also created some variability in local area soil moisture levels because of the fluctuation in rainfall and runoff during the storms he adds.

Before the late April and early May precipitation, almost half of the province, about 46 per cent, was rated in the low soil moisture category. Only nine per cent was rated in the high category. Respectively those were the highest and lowest totals recorded in the last four years. About six per cent of the province was rated in the very low category, a total comparable to 1989 and 1990.

(Cont'd)

A mid-April soil moisture survey showed dry to extremely dry conditions in the southeast. "With essentially no soil moisture reserves, the risk of crop damage to drought was high. Since then, conditions have improved considerably with a late April snow and rain storm," says Howard.

A provincial spring soil moisture map for stubble conditions as of May 1 has been prepared annually since 1988. A fall moisture map is also prepared by the conservation and development branch. Maps are based on actual soil samples as well as precipitation analysis and discussion with Alberta Agriculture regional and district staff. (**Note**: The attached map is an updated version of the May 1 map presenting conditions to May 21.)

Soil moisture categories are designed as a recropping guide. A high soil moisture level indicates sufficient moisture to help crops survive moderate dry periods. When combined with timely precipitation, it will help to improve yields. A very low rating indicates immediate moisture is needed to ensure seed germination.

For more information, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861, an Alberta Agriculture regional crop production specialist or district agriculturist.

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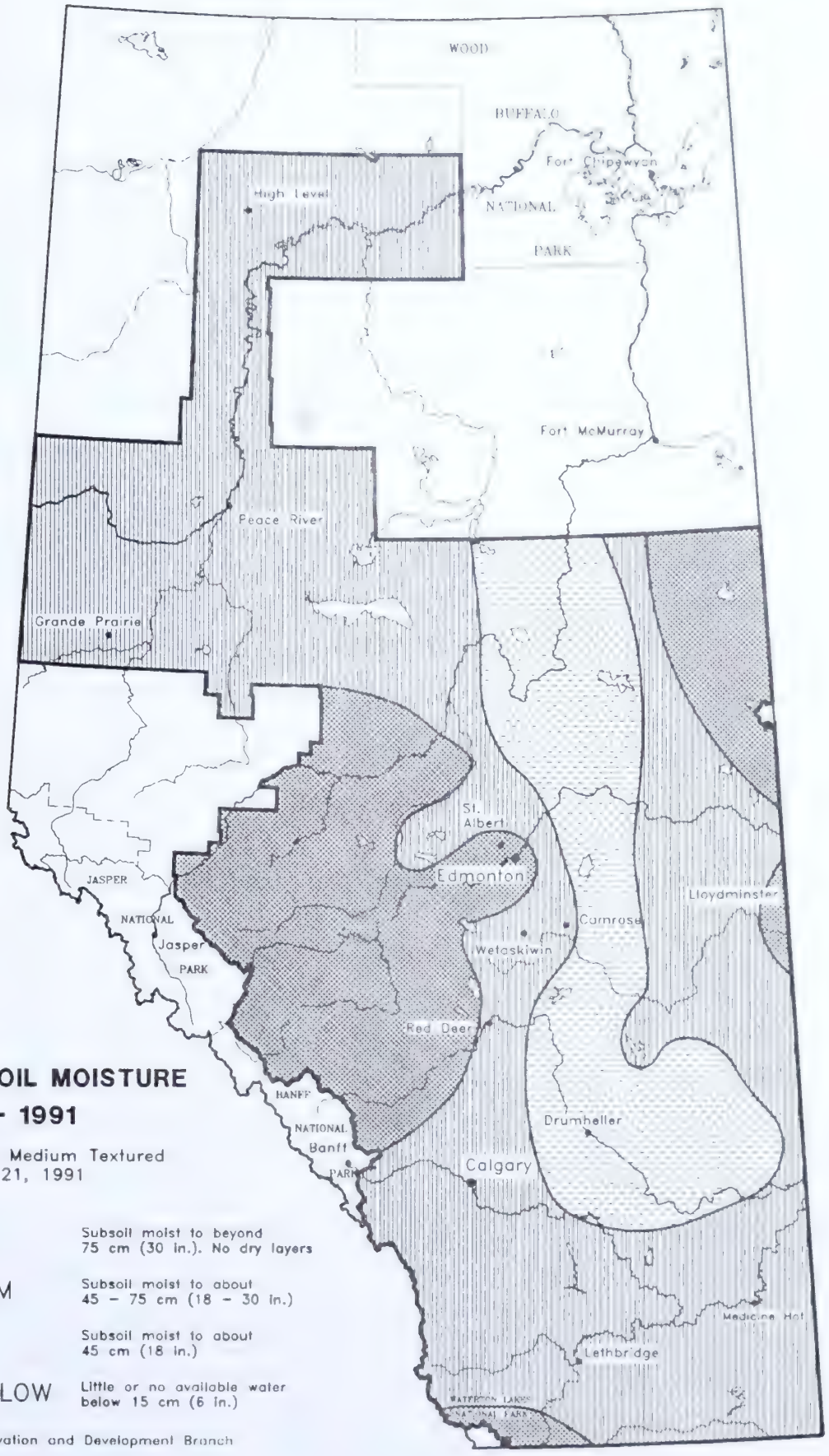
Contact: Allan Howard
381-5861



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STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
For Spring - 1991

Estimated for a Medium Textured
Soil as of May 21, 1991

HIGH	Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm (30 in.). No dry layers
MEDIUM	Subsoil moist to about 45 – 75 cm (18 – 30 in.)
LOW	Subsoil moist to about 45 cm (18 in.)
VERY LOW	Little or no available water below 15 cm (6 in.)

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

June 3, 1991
For immediate release

ATV safety should always be priority

Safety should always come first in operating an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) says Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager.

"We are lulled, by how easy and versatile ATVs are to operate, into forgetting the very real hazards," says Solomon Kyeremanteng. "Two recent fatal accidents have again pointed out the necessity of being safety conscious, whether you're using the ATV for farm work or as a recreational vehicle."

While Alberta Agriculture doesn't have an ATV safety program, the Alberta Safety Council has about 30 instructors around the province who will teach ATV safety to a minimum of four and a maximum of eight students. The council provides courses for recreational as well as industrial users of ATVs says Tom Lalonde, director of instructional training.

Lalonde says many accident circumstances show a lack of training, supervision and people not following manufacturers' recommendations related to the size of the ATV and the age of the operator.

Proper equipment is discussed at the courses. This includes a helmet, face shield or goggles, gloves, over-the-ankle boots, and appropriate clothing including long pants, long sleeved shirt and or jacket.

Supervision is also important when children operate ATVs he adds. "Children must always be supervised. As well they shouldn't ride a machine beyond their capabilities." Recommendations are that children between the ages of six and 12 should operate ATVs with a less than 70 c.c. engine size, and between ages of 12 and 16 be restricted to ATVs of 90 c.c and under. At age 16 the operator is considered an adult user and there are no engine size restrictions.

Another important safety consideration is not to ride double. "There shouldn't be more than one person aboard an ATV at anytime," says Lalonde.

Both Kyeremanteng and Lalonde agree that a change of attitude is important to preventing more ATV accidents. "Even though they are a recreational vehicle, ATVs are not toys," says Lalonde.

(Cont'd)

ATV safety should always be priority (cont'd)

"Good safety is important at all times with an ATV. Safety has been pushed aside, I think because these multipurpose vehicles are so easy to operate and because an ATV has been a novelty and recreational vehicle. But, I want to emphasize whether a farm family is using their ATV for chores around the farm or more recreationally, that they take every safety precaution possible," says Kyeremanteng.

Anyone interested in an ATV user course should contact Lalonde at the Alberta Safety Council in Edmonton at 428-7555.

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

Tom Lalonde
428-7555

June 3, 1991
For immediate release

June 30 new deadline for beekeeper registrations

Alberta beekeepers have a new, and later, registration deadline in 1991 says the provincial apiculturist.

"The new June 30 deadline is a better fit with new industry practices as we've moved from a package to a wintering industry," says Kenn Tuckey of Alberta Agriculture. He adds the change from the May 15 deadline was a request from the Alberta beekeeping industry.

Tuckey says about 1200 apiculture registration forms will be mailed in early June to the province's beekeepers and people who plan to start in the beekeeping business. The registration is required by the provincial **Bee Act**. The act sets out legislative framework for health and sale standards.

"Information from the registration forms also gives us a good picture of the industry," says Tuckey. Among the questions asked are: the total number of colonies in operation; total hives owned; total number of apiaries; colonies put into winter; land location of honey house; and, apiary locations other than honey house.

Anyone who plans to start keeping bees can contact Tuckey for a registration form. Write him at Alberta Agriculture, Crop Protection Branch, 205, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call him at 427-7098.

Last year 700 beekeepers registered 156,000 colonies and produced 23 million pounds of honey.

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Contact: Kenn Tuckey
427-7098

June 3. 1991
For immediate release

Many considerations in selecting trees

Poets find inspiration in trees, in the heat of the day we seek their shade and we are also learning more and more about their conservation benefits.

"Trees are both useful and attractive, but selecting the right one takes some thought," says Don Geddes, an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

Location is one of the first things to consider he says. "Note the amount of sunshine the tree will receive now and in the future. Consider exposure to potentially damaging north and west winds. Finally, look for structures that might interfere with its growth, such as utility wires, buildings, sidewalks and driveways."

As well, soil conditions and the mature height and spread of the tree should be considered. "Know if there are low spots that hold water, high spots or sandy soil that may be dry where you plan to plant your tree or trees.

"If you know the mature height and spread of the tree, you can save unnecessary and drastic pruning as the tree matures," Geddes says. Information about mature tree size is available in the Alberta Horticultural Guide. The Alberta Agriculture publication is available at most garden centres and nurseries. As well, the free publication is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices or by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

"The horticulture guide can also give you ideas about tree choices once you know the conditions of where you plan to plant. Also talk to the staff at your local nursery or greenhouse, they can help you select the best type of tree," he says.

Geddes stresses the importance of buying a healthy tree and has several tips. Examine the tree carefully. Check for a trunk that tapers gradually from the base to the tip and has only one dominant leader. The main branches should be evenly spaced. Look for plump buds, good color, and size and shape of leaves. Check the bark and leaves for signs of insects or disease. Also look for any mechanical damage such as broken limbs and damaged bark.

(Cont'd)

Many considerations in selecting trees (cont'd)

Geddes also advises looking at the roots of the tree. "Look for an intact root ball and try to avoid trees that have exposed roots. Trees with intact root balls will establish much quicker."

He adds container trees establish more quickly and can be planted throughout the summer, but recommends looking at their roots if possible. "Watch for roots that have curled around the inside of the container. If curling has occurred, make sure roots are straightened or pruned off before planting. If the curling isn't corrected, the roots will continue to grow that way and eventually will strangle the tree as it matures."

As well, he says, look for a number of signs of a poorly grown or unhealthy tree. Trees that have been over fertilized or grown in crowded conditions often have long, narrow trunks with branches concentrated at the top of the tree. Trees grown under stressful conditions, with low fertilizer or water, tend to be short and stout.

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Contact: Don Geddes
422-1789

June 3, 1991
For immediate release

Isley announces change to ADC family farm loan policy

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced an update of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) family farm unit definition.

Loan eligibility and amounts were previously calculated at a $200,000 limit per family farm unit, with company and partnership loans not to exceed $600,000. The new definition applies the $200,000 limit to "a qualifying individual", and adds "business units consisting of three or more individuals farming together...may not exceed $600,000".

Isley notes the distinction is important, given the many different ways today's farms are operated. "Today, farm partnerships take many forms: husband and wife, brother and sister, brother and brother, and so on. This new wording makes it clear that the typical applicants for ADC loans, husband and wife operations, are equal partners in the business.

"For example, two brothers could hypothetically be eligible for $400,000 in loans from ADC, if they qualified as a partnership under the old definition. But, a husband and wife team would have been eligible for only $200,000. This new wording makes it clear that a husband and wife can be considered two separate individuals for lending purposes."

Isley adds few ADC loans are for amounts greater than $200,000. In the last years, ADC and its clients have brought the average loan size down from $138,000 in 1980/81 to $76,000 today. He also notes a formal, written business arrangement is mandatory for all loans over $200,000.

Isley stresses criteria for the program haven't changed. To qualify for loans, individual applicants must be active farm managers and fulfill the usual security and repayment criteria. "When a husband and wife sit down with ADC," he says "they will together determine whether they are applying for a loan as two separate individuals farming together or as a joint operation. The key distinctions will be how such assets as land, livestock and machinery are owned, who holds the Canadian Wheat Board permit book, and how income tax, insurance, production management and other decisions are made. In some cases, a husband and wife may have a formal business partnership agreement."

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Bob Splane
679-1302

June 3, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

5TH ANNUAL FARM SAFETY HIKE LAUNCH JUNE 18

The Women of Unifarm will launch their fifth annual farm safety hike campaign on June 18 at the Allan Kerr farm east of Camrose. The farm women's organization has again published a guide designed to take pre-schoolers and their parents around their farm yard to discuss potential dangers. It also encourages parents to write emergency numbers by their telephone and teach children how to dial appropriate emergency numbers. This is particularly important because television has taught rural children about the 911 emergency number which isn't available to them says Florence Trautman, the Women of Unifarm farm safety co-ordinator. Families can also win prizes by participating in the hike through a coloring contest in the guide. Copies of the hike booklet--10,000 were printed--are available by writing the Unifarm office at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, T5L 4W2 or calling 451-5912. For more information about the campaign launch, media may contact Trautman at 451-5912.

YOUNG CANADIANS' BEEF CONFERENCE JUNE 29-JULY 1 IN OLDS

A "window to the future" of the beef industry will be held June 29 through July 1 as the Canadian Beef Breeds Council hosts a young Canadians' beef conference. Organizers say the conference is a response to young people in the cattle business looking for up-to-date information on issues in beef production. The target age group for the conference is 16 to 25 year olds. Among the key topic areas at the conference are: marketing beef; the global environment; a new grading system; and, analysis of live steers and carcass evaluation. Olds College is the site of the conference. Pre-registration is required by June 15. For registration information, write Valerie Oakley at Box 5097, Airdrie, T4B 2B2, call 948-4140 or 948-1225 or FAX 948-3141. For more information, contact Pam Miller at 250-9121, Ken Aylesworth at 250-9242 or Dan Stanton at 297-8452.

(Cont'd)

17TH ALBERTA RAM TEST STATION SALE JULY 6

Top rams will be auctioned at the 17th annual Alberta ram test station sale at the Olds Cow Palace on July 6. Performance tested Suffolks, Dorsets, Rambouillets and Polypays are among the breeds available. Only rams above the station rate of gain average and that pass the physical cull will be sold. Yearling rams from the wool breeds test will also be available. Ram viewing begins at 10 a.m. and the sale begins at 1 p.m. Catalogues will be available at the sale. For final test station results and other information, contact Kim Stanford, Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist, in Airdrie at 948-8517.

MANAGING THE FARM FOR PROFIT II

Popular demand after the Western Barley Growers Association annual convention has brought Roy Ferguson back to Alberta. Ferguson, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, will guide participants through a two day managing the farm for profit workshop June 24 and June 25 in Red Deer. Some of the topics covered are: the status of agriculture; understanding your data; the choking on success syndrome; nine signals of financial success; winning with lenders; business turnarounds; developing investor/lender capital; and, management stardom's five points. For more information, contact David Hueppelsheuser at 885-4109.

4-H SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

July 15 is the deadline for 4-H scholarship applications. This year 80 4-H scholarships worth more than $50,000 will be awarded. Criteria for the scholarships vary. While most are based on academic skills, community involvement and 4-H background, some are non-academic, look for leadership skills and are based on the area of the province students come from. Past and present 4-H members are encouraged to apply. Application forms are available from regional 4-H offices, Alberta Agriculture district home economists and the 4-H branch in Edmonton. For more information, contact Anita Anderson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

Coming Agricultural Events

2nd International Windbreaks and Agroforestry Symposium
Ridgetown College
Ridgetown, Ontario ..... June 2-7
Charles Baldwin – (519)674-5456 – Ridgetown, Ontario

Canadian Hereford Association 100th annual meeting
Days Inn Le Seville
Montreal, Quebec ..... June 7-9
Duncan Porteous – 275-2662 – Calgary

International symposium on stored grain ecosystems
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba ..... June 7-10
D.S. Jayas – (204)474-6292 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Supporting Each Other seminar: Farmers and Rural Communities in Crisis
St. Mark's Anglican Church
Innisfail ..... June 8
Dorothy Munro – 227-4523 – Innisfail

National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association 6th annual conference "Strategies for the future"
Kennewick, Washington ..... June 10-13
John Whitehead – 320-3313 or 328-8989 – Lethbridge

Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Exposition
Red Deer ..... June 11-13
Pat Kennedy or Ruth Leader – 340-5307 – Red Deer

Beaverlodge Beekeepers' field day
Beaverlodge Research Station
Beaverlodge ..... June 14
Don Nelson – 354-2212 – Beaverlodge

Alberta Cowboy Poetry Gathering '91
Community Hall
Pincher Creek ..... June 14-16
Anne Stevich – 627-4733 – Pincher Creek;
Arlene Boisjoli – 628-2405 – Lundbreck

International Symposium on Cold Region Development (ISCORD 91)
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton ..... June 16-21
Jan Boon – 450-5218 – Edmonton;
David Wong – 427-4241 – Edmonton

Alberta Cattle Commission semi-annual meeting
Calgary ..... June 18-19
Ron Glaser – 275-4400 – Calgary

Women of Unifarm annual convention
Camrose ..... June 18-20
Willow Webb – 451-5912 – Edmonton

Conservation 2000 research tour
Lethbridge ..... June 19
Jim Hahn – 382-3406 – Lethbridge

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Exhibition Park
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... June 19-22
Show office – (306)781-9200 – Regina, Saskatchewan

"Going Global" Canadian Cattlemen's Association national convention and trade show
Roundup Centre, Calgary Stampede Park
Calgary ..... June 19-20
Deb Bodnar – 275-8558 – Calgary

21st Alberta Provincial Plowing Match
C.O.C.O. grounds
Wanham ..... June 21-23
Tara Foote – 694-3941 – Wanham

Canadian Phytopathological Society annual meeting
Banff Centre
Banff ..... June 23-26
Denis Gaudet – 327-4561 – Lethbridge

Summer meeting American Society of Agricultural Engineers
Albuquerque, New Mexico ..... June 23-26
Judy Brown – (616)429-0300 – St. Joseph, Michigan

Conservation for Profit field day
Lakeland College Campus
Vermilion ..... June 27
Dale Milne – 853-8444 – Vermilion

Unifarm summer council meeting
Lethbridge ..... June 27-29
Shirley Dyck – 451-5912 – Edmonton

Young Canadians' Beef Seminar
Olds College
Olds ..... June 29-July 1
Pam Miller – 250-9121 – Calgary;
Ken Aylesworth – 250-9242 – Calgary

REDA co-operative youth program
Goldeye Centre, Nordegg
Grad seminar ..... June 30-July 7;
Youth A ..... July 7-13;
Youth B ..... July 13-19;
Teen A ..... July 19-25;
Teen B ..... July 25-31;
Teen C ..... July 31-August 6
Richard Stringham – 451-5959 – Edmonton

REDA co-operative and farm organization internship program
Goldeye Centre
Nordegg ..... July 1-26
Richard Stringham – 451-5959 – Edmonton

1991 Conference of Ministers and deputy ministers of Agriculture
Kananaskis ..... July 2-4
Ben McEwen – 427-2145 – Edmonton

Breton Plots field day
Breton plots ..... July 5
J.A. Robertson – 492-0191 – Edmonton

Region 17 Arabian horse show
Westerner Park
Red Deer ..... July 5-7
Linda Roth – 436-4244 – Edmonton

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Stampede grounds
Calgary ..... July 5-July 14
General inquiries – 261-0162 – Calgary or
1-800-661-1260 (North America);
Agriculture office – 261-0271 – Calgary

17th annual Alberta Ram Test Station sale
Olds Cow Palace
Olds ..... July 6
Kim Stanford – 948-8517 – Airdrie

Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute 24th annual conference
The Lodge at Kananaskis
Kananaskis Village ..... July 6-8
CFIEI office – (416)632-8483 – Burlington, Ontario

8th International Rapeseed Congress
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... July 9 - 11
J.M. Bell – (306)975-7066 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Keith Downey – (306)975-7014 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

1991 Canadian Seed Growers' Association annual meeting
Le Château Champlain
Montreal, Quebec ..... July 10-13
CGSA office – (613)236-0497 – Ottawa, Ontario

1991 Agricultural Service Board provincial tour
Camrose Regional Exhibition grounds are head quarters
County of Camrose ..... July 15-18
Paul King – 672-4765 – Camrose

SARDA/ASB #130 annual field day tour
M.D. #130
Falher ..... July 18
Jeanne Bisson – 837-2211 – Falher

Olds College Hort Week
Olds ..... July 21-26
Extension services – 556-8344 – Olds

6th University of Saskatchewan Hort Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... July 22-26
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

CARA/Agriculture Service Board summer tour
Special Area 2
Hanna (beginning and end of tour) ..... July 24
Dianne Westerlund – 664-3777 – Oyen

Agricultural Institute of Canada annual conference "Agriculture and climatic change"
University of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick ..... July 25-31
Paul Smith – (506)453-2185 – Fredericton, New Brunswick

Symposium/workshop "Changing climate in relation to sustainable agriculture"
University of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick..... July 29-30
Peter Dzikowski – 422-4385 – Edmonton

Summer Agricultural Education Institute
Olds College
Olds ..... July 29-August 9;
Open house .....August 2
Betty Gabert – 427-2402 – Edmonton;
Rosemany Peer – 556-8234 – Olds

Provincial soils tour
South Peace
Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek, Rycroft and Dunvegan..... July 30-31
Garry Coy – 835-2291 – Fairview;
John Heinonen – 624-3388 – Peace River

Crops field day
Alberta Environmental Centre
Vegreville .....August 1
Rita Stevens or Mark Jeffers – 632-8200 – Vegreville

4th annual plant science/plant industry agronomy tour (sponsored by the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture)
Edmonton area.....August 7
Doug Penney – 427-2530 – Edmonton;
K.G. Briggs – 492-3239 – Edmonton

Canadian Hatchery Federation annual convention
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village .....August 12-15
Jim Haggins – 546-2445 – Linden

Pembina Forage Association 1991 annual tour
Barrhead area .....August 14
Luanne Berjian – 349-4546 – Westlock

Canadian National Arabian horse show
Agriplex
Regina, Saskatchewan .....August 14-17
Linda Roth – 436-4244 – Edmonton

International Quilters Conference
Banff.....August 30 - September 2
Bonnie Murdoch – 245-4944 – Calgary

Equi-Fair '91
Spruce Meadows
Calgary..... September 4-8
Isabell Schipani – 254-3200 – Calgary

Crop Protection Institute of Canada 1991 conference ("Achieving balance between high technology and sustainable agriculture")
Ramada Renaissance
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... September 15-18
CPIC office – (416)622-9711 – Etobicoke, Ontario

Olde Tyme Sheep Fair
Olds Agricultural Grounds
Olds..... September 21
Mike Rieberger – 224-3743 – Bowden

International conference on land degradation and restoration in arid regions
Lubbock, Texas..... September 23-25
Howard M. Taylor – (806)742-2837 – Lubbock, Texas

8th World Congress of Food Science
Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, Ontario ..... September 29-October 4
Congress office – (416)678-1229 – Mississauga, Ontario

Stimulating Rural Economies for the 2000s conference
Camrose Regional Exhibiton Centre
Camrose.....October 23-25
Reg Kontz – 427-2171 – Edmonton

Royal Winter Fair
Canadian National Exhibition
Toronto, Ontario ..... November 5 -16
CNE – (416)393-6413 – Toronto, Ontario

Agri-Trade Farm Equipment and Services Exposition
Westerner Park
Red Deer..... November 6-9
Pat Kennedy – 347-4491 – Red Deer

Oat Producers Association of Alberta annual conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton..... November 19-20
Emile deMilliano – 895-2219 – Lamont; Peter Kirylchuk – Lac La Biche – 623-7732

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association annual conference ("Managing water—a limited resource in a changing environment")
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge ..... November 19-20
Stan Klassen – 328-3063 – Lethbridge

Alberta Potato Industry annual conference
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village ..... November 26-30
Jan Brown – 291-2430 – Calgary

Alberta Beekeepers Association annual general meeting and convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton ..... November 28-29
Gertie Adair – 489-6949 – Edmonton

Alberta Cattle Commission annual general meeting
Edmonton ..... December 2-4
Ron Glaser – 275-4400 – Calgary

1992

Unifarm annual meeting
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton ..... January 6-9
Shirley Dyck – 451-5912 – Edmonton

Alberta Canola Producers Commission annual convention
Hilton Hotel
Edmonton ..... January 22-24
Nellie Waschuk – 452-6487 – Edmonton

12th provincial Rural Crime Watch Workshop
Hanna Community Centre
Hanna ..... February 7-8
Dave Cattanach – 854-2435 – Hanna

International Sulphur Markets—Today and Tommorrow
Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel
Washington, D.C., U.S.A. ..... April 1-3
The Sulphur Institute – (202)-331-9660 – Washington, D.C.

Agriculture Week in Alberta ..... March 8-14
Bard Haddrell – 427-2127 – Edmonton

Note: Alberta communities host a number of local, regional and international agricultural fairs every year. Because there are so many, they are not listed in the "Coming Agricultural Events" list. A list of agricultural society fairs was complied by the community and rural services branch and is available by writing

Alberta Agriculture
Publications Office
7000-113 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta,
T6H 5T6.

Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **September, October, November, later in 1991 or 1992?** Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

- Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the **name, city** or **town**, and **phone number** of a contact person for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by August 22, 1991 to:
Agri-News Editor
Print Media Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed September 2, 1991)

AGRI-NEWS

June 10, 1991

For immediate release

This Week

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Companion gardening has many benefits 6

Moldy food could be dangerous for your dog 8

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Briefs 10

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 10, 1991
For immediate release

Try beetles for biological control of leafy spurge

Spurge beetles may be a solution to persistent leafy spurge problems producers have on pasture and other uncultivated land says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Farmers and ranchers want to control leafy spurge because cattle don't eat it and avoid grazing in areas where it grows. It's also very competitive with grasses, and is difficult and costly to control," says Dan Cole, supervisor of integrated weed control with the crop protection branch.

The beetles are an alternative to herbicides and offer some advantages. One is they can provide an on-going, year-to-year control. An added advantage is that they are a biological control, and are ideal for environmentally sensitive areas such as sites near water says Cole.

Just as leafy spurge was introduced to Canada from Eastern Europe, so spurge beetles also came to Alberta from Europe. Several European beetles were screened and released, and two types now are available for larger scale distribution. The black dot spurge beetle was brought to Alberta from Hungary and the cooper spurge beetle from Italy in 1983. The tiny beetles are about twice the size of an alfalfa seed.

Once established on a patch of leafy spurge, the beetles can have a significant effect on the spurge in two to five years says Cole. "It's slow at first, because the beetles need time to establish a population."

Adult spurge beetles emerge in late June or early July and feed on the leaves. Females lay eggs all summer and the emerging larvae feed on the leafy spurge roots. They feed into the late fall, are dormant over the winter and feed again for about three weeks in the spring. Then they pupate and become adults, completing the life cycle.

"Using the beetles provides control, and not eradication, as the spurge beetle won't eat itself out of house and home. They'll bring the leafy spruge to a low enough level that it doesn't effect grazing, but more critically for the farmer is that it's a continuing control, without additional expense," he says.

(Cont'd)

Try beetles for biological control of leafy spurge (cont'd)

Cole adds extensive tests have shown this beetle won't damage any cultivated or native plants.

Both types of the beetles are available for release. The black dot spurge beetle prefers a higher, drier and more exposed leafy spurge infestation. The copper beetle prefers a moister, less exposed site on sandy soil. Shaded and low lying areas near water are good locations for this beetle.

"Selecting a suitable release site is critical in establishing the spurge beetle and the eventual success of its control of leafy spurge," says Cole.

Farmers and ranchers who would like to try either type of beetle on a more isolated leafy spurge patch that won't be sprayed, mowed, burned, cultivated or otherwise disturbed can contact Cole at the crop protection branch in Edmonton at 427-7098. Producers can also contact their Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or municipal fieldman for more information about the spurge beetles.

Spurge beetle redistribution is a co-operative effort with Alec McClay of the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville notes Cole.

Leafy spurge is a persistent perennial weed introduced to Canada from Eastern Europe in the late 19th century. It's widespread in central and southern Alberta and has been found as far north as Barrhead. The weed covers approximately 15,000 acres of public and private pastureland, rangeland, right of ways, abandoned farmland and other uncultivated land.

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Contact: Dan Cole
427-7098

June 10, 1991
For immediate release

Initial CWB wheat prices likely lower than last year

Next month's initial Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) wheat prices will probably be lower than this crop year's in spite of improvements in international wheat prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"A tighter world supply demand balance should push international wheat prices up slightly," says Charlie Pearson, "but, unless there's a major drought to affect international prices, the politics of trade will influence prices more than supply and demand. In particular, international price improvements will depend on how aggressive the U.S. and E.C. are with their export subsidies."

Pearson notes a tighter world supply demand balance and progress at GATT negotiations should improve international prices and provide an opportunity for a 1991-92 CWB final payment.

Pearson says the CWB initial prices for 1991-92 announced in July will probably be much lower than this crop year's initial prices. "For example, port based 1 CWRS wheat is expected to be in the $100 to $110 range, down from $135 per tonne. Alberta based payments would be in the $80 to $90 per tonne range.

"Given this expected decline, wheat growers are encouraged to fill 1990-91 quotas as quickly as possible. If your local elevator is plugged, you may want to consider delivering to nearby elevators with space, or shipping a board producer car," he says.

Large supplies of Prairie wheat and the low initial payment will have an effect on the feed grain market he adds. However, weather will be a major factor in the direction of feed grain prices during the summer. "Favorable moisture conditions for crop production and increased marketing during the summer to generate cash flow and free up bin space before harvest can be expected to pressure prices lower."

Local feed markets for barley will continue to provide good delivery opportunities. Favorable weather for North American crop production will result in prices similar to last year says Pearson.

(Cont'd)

Initial CWB wheat prices likely lower than last year (cont'd)

He predicts the most likely range for Alberta-based barley prices as between $85 and $100 per tonne in southern Alberta and between $70 and $85 per tonne in northern Alberta.

On the world feed grain scene, supplies will remain tight in 1991-92. Relatively cheap wheat prices and major importers with financial problems will limit price improvements Pearson notes.

Local canola prices are expected to remain in the $240 to $260 per tonne range during 1991. But, he says, weather will be a factor to watch over the summer. Hot, dry weather in July and August in both the U.S. and Canada can reduce the yield potential of soybean and canola crops. "Prices will react to unfavorable weather conditions," he says.

"Increased domestic crush is expected from more demand for canola oil in the U.S. and the re-opening of the Lloydminster plant this fall," he adds.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

June 10, 1991
For immediate release

Speed, efficiency in new design limer

Research meets practical application in a limer designed by an Alberta Agriculture engineering technologist.

During the last three years a joint Alberta Agriculture-University of Alberta research project discovered a new way of improving water quality in farm dugouts. The research team found applying hydrated lime not only controlled algae growth, but also a broader range of dugout water problems.

While the technology quickly moved from research to accepted practice, an extended challenge of the project was finding better application methods says John Kienholz of the engineering services branch. For Kienholz, designing a limer started from: "There are the bags of lime and there's the dugout; what's the best way of getting them together?" he says.

Safety and efficient liming were key elements to incorporate into the design he says. The hydrated lime is a caustic powder that has to be measured and pre-mixed with water before application to the dugout surface. "The total process has to be done safely and quickly with as little effort as possible in order to be economically attractive to farmers. So our goal was a clean, efficient and fast method," he says.

Before designing the limer, Kienholz analyzed lime handling, power supply, and pumping, mixing and distribution systems. He decided batch mixing was most suitable and could be adapted to a wide range of machinery use. An "H" configuration of four valves with an adequately sized pump are at the heart of his design.

Currently a truck-mounted version of the limer is being used commercially by Roger Parent of Girouxville, who also worked on its concept. "He started using the limer about mid May and we'll be evaluating how it works," Kienholz says. He adds the limer design is more specifically for commercial operators rather than farmers. "Our aim is a system that will be the most cost efficient for the farmer, and this one requires a single operator."

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Contact: John Kienholz
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Bob Buchanan
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June 10, 1991
For immediate release

Companion gardening has many benefits

Repelling garden pests, supplementing nutrition and matching physically complementary plants are three reasons gardeners choose companion gardening says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"It's a bit of a stretch of the definition of biological control, but that aspect of companion gardening is one of the popular reasons people are trying companion gardening now," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

In some cases plants have been known to repel insects she says. Both marigold and artemisia reduce flea beetle attacks on cabbage, but she notes, the quality and yield of the cabbage are adversely affected. Marigolds also control nematodes with chemicals in their roots. In a study, snap beans grown with potatoes reduced the number of potato beetles, but again, potato yields were lowered.

Nasturtiums aren't recommended as a companion plant with cole crops since they attract flea beetles. "However," she notes, "nasturtium can be used as a trap crop to lure the insect pest away from valued crops. Nasturtiums planted under apple trees lure aphids to their flowers. Another example of a trap crop is planting pumpkins on the edge of the garden to draw insects away from the cucumbers." Barkley adds insects must be controlled on the trap crop, so its doesn't turn into a breeding ground.

Another non-chemical benefit from companion gardening is providing supplementary nutrients. Beans' and peas' ability to fix nitrogen in the soil can help most garden crops.

"A good pairing is beans and corn. The beans fix nitrogen which helps the corn thrive, and the beans also benefit from the cooler temperatures created by shade from the taller corn," says Barkley.

A third benefit of companion gardening allows gardeners with a limited space to intercrop physically complementary plants. Carrots and radishes, for example, can be grown together successfully. As radishes are harvested, carrots are thinned and remain to grow to maturity. Other possible pairings are leaf lettuce and onions, and beets and kohlrabi.

(Cont'd)

Barkley warns that just as some plants are a good influence on each other, some plants have a negative effect on their neighbours. This is called allelopathy. "Artemisia is an allelopathic plant and shouldn't be planted in a vegetable garden," says Barkley.

The most important part of companion gardening is planning she says. "You must plan the correct combinations of plants. Also, look for useful companions such as cut flowers with culinary uses, or flowers that can be dried."

She also advises leaving some of the crop area without companions. "This way you can assess how effective your companion planting was."

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Contact: Shelley Barkley
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For immediate release

Moldy food could be dangerous for your dog

Man's best friend may be attracted to the smell of moldy cheese, but the attraction could be a dangerous one warns an Alberta Agriculture toxicologist.

About one-quarter of last year's suspected strychnine poisonings of dogs examined by Alberta Agriculture's veterinary diagnostic branch toxicology lab were another form of poisoning. "What we found in the dogs' stomachs," says analytical toxicologist Roy Smith, "was Roquefortine, a toxic substance formed by a number of molds."

These molds grow readily on a number of things, most commonly on dairy products such as cheese he says. Symptoms of Roquefortine poisoning are similar to strychnine poisoning.

To prevent any accidental poisoning, Smith urges people to be careful in how they dispose of moldy food. "Old moldy cheese in the back of your refrigerator should be placed in a sealed container before you put it in the garbage. Dogs, in particular, are attracted to the smell of moldy cheese and actively seek it, eat it in large quantities, and thus are poisoned."

As well he warns people not to knowingly feed any moldy food to their dog. "A number of other dangerous molds can be found on food. They've been on or in hamburger buns, cream cheese, grains, certain nuts, home-brewed beer and other foods. We even saw a case of a dry dog food that became damp and turned moldy."

While Roquefortine was the only mold-based toxin found during post mortems last year, Smith says laboratory staff hope to find out what other toxins, if any, can be found in the stomach contents of dogs that had convulsions before death.

He advises dog owners whose pets display convulsions to tell their veterinarian about possible exposure to moldy food. "Veterinarians have been alerted to last year's problems with mold poisoning," he adds.

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Contact: Dr. Roy Smith
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June 10, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appointments

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN WETASKIWIN

After three years as the district home economist in Provost, Maxine Anderson is the new district home economist in Wetaskiwin. "I have received a warm welcome to the Wetaskiwin district, and I am looking forward to working with the people in the area," she says. As district home economist, Anderson provides information to farm families, and organizes courses and activities in a variety of subjects areas. They range through farm management, foods and nutrition, and clothing and textiles. She will also work closely with local 4-H clubs and other rural organizations. Anderson was a home economics teachers for five years before she joined Alberta Agriculture. She holds a bachelor of education degree (1979) with a home economics major from the University of Alberta. Originally from a mixed farm south of Cereal, Anderson was part of a 4-H family while growing up and also was a 4-H leader in Consort for two years while she taught there. Anderson can be contacted in Wetaskiwin at 352-1307.

TWO HILLS HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Donald Lobay is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Two Hills. Lobay's job experience is in crop protection and production. Most recently he has been a chemical sales representative in the Vermilion area since 1988. Before that, he spent four years with the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville as a diagnostician for the centre's chemical damage diagnostic service. He also spent a year as assistant agricultural fieldman in the County of Smoky Lake. "With my strength in crop protection and production, I'm looking forward to enriching my knowledge of the many other areas of agriculture in the Two Hills area," he says, "And, I'm also looking forward to working and learning with the producers in the Two Hills district." Lobay is a 1982 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program. He was born and raised in Smoky Lake. Lobay can be reached in Two Hills at 657-3311.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

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For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

MARKET STRATEGIES IMPORTANT TO SLAUGHTER LAMBS, HEIFERS

Two Alberta Agriculture market analysts have market strategies for market lambs and heifers producers might want to mull over. "Spring purchases of feeder heifers might pencil out better than buying steers," says Ron Gietz. "During September and October slaughter heifers are typically in short supply and often trade on par with steer prices. As well, packers may be willing to offer favorable prices on forward contracts for slaughter heifers in early fall." Jo Ann Cmoluch says lamb producers should market their slaughter lambs as soon as possible to avoid the inevitable seasonal summer price declines. Producers with good pasture should consider all their marketing options she adds. "The choices are to sell this year's lamb crop as feeders into a heavily discounted market, or feed out their lambs with good prospects of higher slaughter prices in the near future," Cmoluch says. For more information, contact Gietz at 427-5376, or Cmoluch at 427-5387 in Edmonton.

JUST ADD WATER VIDEO

A new addition in Alberta Agriculture's central film library discusses water management and irrigation. "Just add water?" (560-1 VT) is a 28-minute production developed from the Irrigation Research and Development Conference held in Lethbridge last July. Controversial problems and possible solutions are presented in the video. It also includes a section on the historical development of irrigation in Alberta. For loan information, write the Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

WORLD BLACKSMITH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Contestants from nine countries will vie for the world blacksmith championship during the Calgary Stampede next month. Competitions at the 12th annual world championship start on July 6 and run through July 9. Among the events are forging, team and live horseshoing and the eagle eye for accuracy. For more information, contact Karen Legualt at 261-0271 in Calgary.

(Cont'd)

GIBBONS PRODUCER WINS BEST FORAGE SAMPLE AT DAIRY CONGRESS

Gibbons producer John Brown's legume hay earned him the challenge trophy for the best forage sample submitted to the 1991 Alberta Dairy Congress forage competition. The top five placings in each of the five competition classes were on display at the congress in Leduc. Included in the display were results from a feed analysis describing the sample's dry matter, digestible energy, protein, fibre, calcium and phosphorous content. Other first place winners were: Corlane Holsteins, Leduc, grass-legume hay; Delbert Lange, Millet, grass hay; Harold Huising, Redwater, haylage; and, Houweling Farms, Coaldale, cereal silage. Each first place winner received $100, second place $50, and third, $25. A total of 75 entries from across Alberta--plus one B.C. entry--were received in the second annual competition. For more information, contact the Alberta Dairy Congress office at 986-8108 or the Alberta Agriculture district office in Leduc at 986-8985.

OLDS COLLEGE SEED AND GRAIN PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHT

Olds College will host a information evening about its new seed and grain program on June 17 at the Duncan Marshall Place lecture theatre. During the two hour presentation, details about the course such as qualifications, goals, content and career opportunities will be discussed. The information session starts at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Olds College at 556-8281.

AGRI-NEWS

June 17, 1991

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Isley and McClellan call for Hall of Fame nominations

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan are inviting the province's agricultural community to submit nominations for the 1992 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is a distinction awarded to people who have played major roles in advancing agriculture in our province. Any Albertan who has made an outstanding contribution to agriculture at the local, provincial, national or international level may be eligible for admission.

Nominations for the 1992 Agriculture Hall of Fame must be received by July 31, 1991. Forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or by writing to: Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame, Information Services, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

"Induction into the Hall of Fame is the greatest honour Alberta Agriculture can bestow upon any individual," says Isley. "Those admitted to the Hall of Fame have devoted their lives to promoting growth, progress and prosperity in the agriculture industry. Thanks to their efforts, improvements have been made in farming practices, advances have occurred in processing technology, and the family farm and rural way of life have been strengthened in our province."

"Because agriculture plays a part in virtually all aspects of life in Alberta, previous inductees to the Hall of Fame have come from many different fields," notes McClellan. "But all have had one thing in common: their careers have benefitted agriculture, rural communities and the province as a whole."

Hall of Fame inductees for 1992 will be honoured at a ceremony next March. The banquet and awards presentation traditionally coincides with the beginning of Agriculture Week. Inductees are featured in a province-wide campaign highlighting the special week. The Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame is located on the main floor of department headquarters, the J.G. O'Donoghue Building in Edmonton.

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June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Rainmaker aids soil erosion research

While wind is often associated with soil erosion, rain can also be a major culprit.

An Alberta Agriculture research project is currently investigating soil erosion caused by rain and rain's effects on different soil management practices by using a rainfall simulator. The project started last fall when the conservation and development branch team of Tom Goddard, soil conservation specialist, and Sheilah Nolan, research agronomist, built their rainmaker.

The transportable simulator, based on a model from the University of Guelph, has a solid cone nozzle that stands over a small plot. Simulated rain storm intensity can be varied from a light drizzle to a heavy downpour. Water runoff and soil loss are both collected.

"We're really looking at quantifying soil erosion from rainfall," says Goddard. Rain's effect on different soil types, a variety of crop residues and a number of tillage conditions including stubble, fallow and no till are measured in their trials.

"While we're still in the collection phase," Nolan adds, "we have made some observations from our fall and spring testing. We've seen twice the sediment loss from bare fallow than from stubble. As well, there's less sediment loss from no till stubble than from conventionally tilled stubble. We've also found there's not always less runoff from fallow depending on its condition at the time of the rainfall."

Nolan says the rainmaker gives a very visible show of the results they've measured. "You can see a dramatic difference in the runoff of soil and water between the plots with different amounts of residue cover."

The visible show of soil loss dynamics has expanded the role of the rainmaker from research tool to include an awareness and educational role. It made its first appearance indoors at a soil conservation workshop during the winter. The simulator can be set up indoors or outdoors over a split plot, one side with bare soil and one side with soil protected by residue cover.

(Cont'd)

Since then, the rainfall simulator has been demonstrated at a number of conservation tours and field days. Tomorrow (June 18) it will be at a northeast regional tour in the County of Beaver, a week later (June 25) be part of an agriculture service board tour at the County of 40 Mile and then be one of the demonstrations at the "conservation for profit" field day at Lakeland College in Vermilion on June 27.

This winter Nolan and Goddard will do a detailed analyses of the data they collect through their fall, spring and summer trials.

Their project is supported with funding from the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

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Contact: Tom Goddard
422-6530

Sheilah Nolan
422-6530

June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Prevent well contamination, check hydrants

Self draining farmyard hydrants are the cause of many cases of well contamination in Alberta says an Alberta Agriculture engineering technologist.

Red Deer based Ken Williamson warns producers with this kind of system to take care during the spraying season. Already this spring he's investigated a well contamination case in central Alberta involving a self draining hydrant.

Self draining hydrants are designed to automatically drain when they're shut off. This feature prevents freezing when the hydrant is used in winter. Some hydrants are installed so they drain into the water well when they shut off, and that is where a problem can start, he says.

"If a hose is connected to one of these hydrants, and the hose end is placed in a tank of water, the stage is set to syphon water from the tank back down the well. This was exactly what happened in the contamination I saw this spring," Williamson says.

In this recent case, a sprayer tank containing Avadex was being filled from a farm well. When the sprayer tank started to overflow, the hydrant shut off. One end of garden hose was left in the tank. Because the hydrant was set up to drain back into the well when it was shut off, the water-Avadex mix in the tank was allowed to drain back down the well and the water was contaminated.

Williamson recommends hydrants shouldn't be installed so they drain into a well. As well, he says sprayer tanks should never be filled in the vicinity of any water source. "Instead, use a nurse tank to fill the sprayer tank."

Other preventative measures against accidental contamination include using hose bib vacuum breakers on hydrants and always maintaining an air gap between the end of a filler hose and the maximum fill level in a water tank.

For more information, contact Williamson in Red Deer at 340-5324, or regional engineering technologists Bob Buchanan in Barrhead at 674-8252 or Orin Kenzie in Lethbridge at 381-5112.

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Contact: Ken Williamson
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June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Wet May good news for Alberta farmers

Rainfall 50 to 100 per cent above the May normal made most Alberta farmers happy says an Alberta Agriculture weather resource specialist.

"The rain has improved surface soil moisture levels and provided good conditions for germination. Normal rainfall amounts during the rest of the growing season are needed to assure good crop yields," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. Wetter, cooler conditions seen in May have continued in early June he adds.

During May rainfall amounts in agricultural areas of the province varied from 25.1 mm at Elk Point, 38 per cent below its normal, to 102.4 mm at Brooks, 167 per cent above its normal.

Most of southern and west central Alberta reported May rainfall between 75 and 100 mm, which is about double the normal amount for the month of May. Parts of southern Alberta, the southern Peace region and most of east central Alberta reported just less than 50 mm of rainfall. This total is slightly above normal notes Dzikowski. The northern Peace region and the northeast were driest during May with a below normal, less than 25 mm of rain.

May's average temperature in northern Alberta was one to two degrees Celsius above normal. In central and southern Alberta, monthly temperatures were 0.1 to one degree below normal.

"May started with below seasonal temperatures, followed by two weeks of above normal temperatures and ended with near normal values. There was frost reported in many locations in the latter half of the month, but seedling damage was minimal," he says.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Electricity costs factor in aeration fan purchase

A three horsepower crop aeration fan may be drawing more than three horsepower worth of energy and costing you more money says a project engineer at the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge.

"Some fan manufacturers may not be providing the whole story about the power requirements of their fans," says Robert Maze.

Recent tests done by the centre indicate some fans marketed as three horsepower aeration fans are drawing the same amount of energy as five horsepower motors. "While the so-called three horsepower fans out perform their competitors in terms of air flow, they do so at an increased energy cost," Maze says.

Farmers often base purchasing an aeration fan only on its capital cost, but that initial cost is only a small part of the cost equation says Maze. "In an aeration system, where the fan runs for an appreciable time, the power will cost far more during the life of the fan than its initial cost."

Maze uses the example of two fans, both marketed as three horsepower and electrical costs of five cents per kilowatt hour. A three horsepower fan drawing 17 amps will use about 3500 watts (4.7 horsepower) over a 20 day period at a total cost of $84. The other fan, drawing 13 amps will draw 2500 watts (3.3 horsepower) of power over the same time period at a cost of $60.

"The example shows how the eventual energy costs need to be part of the purchase decision. And, in addition to these electricity savings, there may other savings from the lower electrical demand and lower running current related to the wire size needed to service the fan," he says.

Producers considering the purchase of an aeration fan can contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre for more information. The centre has evaluation reports that list actual power drawn by fans. Producers can also talk to Maze about their concerns by calling him at 329-1212.

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Contact: Robert Maze
329-1212

June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Have a safe hamburger

A safe hamburger, whether from a backyard chef or at your favorite restaurant, shouldn't have even a touch of pink says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"Undercooked hamburger carries with it the potential of a type of food poisoning commonly referred to as 'hamburger disease' or 'barbeque syndrome'," says Aileen Whitmore of the home economics branch in Edmonton. "Thorough cooking will destroy the E. coli bacteria associated with this type of food poisoning. That means the centre of hamburger patties are brown and juices are clear."

Hamburger is a more likely candidate for contamination than other meats, although the bacteria is usually found on the surface of all raw meats. During the grinding process of making hamburger, surface contaminants spread through the uncooked ground meat. "People have asked if the pink look test applies to steak," says Whitmore. "Because the bacteria is usually harboured on the meat's surface, the pink centre of a rare or medium steak shouldn't be dangerous as long as the outside of the steak has been cooked."

While hamburger tops the list as a potential source of E. coli food poisoning, it isn't the only candidate. The list includes all types of meat and raw milk. Nor, is the illness isolated to just the summer barbeque season.

"How you handle food could cause the illness at any time. Preventing this type of food poisoning requires safe food handling and preparation all the time," Whitmore says.

Safety starts with choosing fresh products at the grocery store. Next is refrigerating or freezing meat as soon as possible after purchase. Frozen meat should be thawed in the refrigerator or microwave, but not at room temperature. Raw hamburger patties, and other meats, should be prepared quickly, cooked right away or put in the refrigerator.

(Cont'd)

Have a safe hamburger (cont'd)

"Raw meats shouldn't be allowed to sit at room temperature. But just as important, once meat is cooked, serve it quickly because the environment is right for bacterial growth when the food's temperature goes below 60 degrees Celsius. Keep your hot food hot and put leftovers in the refrigerator promptly," she advises.

Cleanliness is another important factor in preventing food poisoning. "One of the biggest mistakes people make, especially when barbequing, is putting cooked meat on the same plate the raw food was on. You kill the bacteria by cooking, then turn around and recontaminate the food with raw juices. Always put cooked food on a clean plate," says Whitmore.

Utensils, cutting boards and counters must be washed with hot soapy water and sterilized to prevent bacteria from contacting other foods. To sterilize add a little bleach to the water. As well, cooks need to wash their hands well after handling raw meat.

Hamburger disease or barbeque syndrome is a gastrointestinal illness caused by E. coli bacteria. The bacteria produces a poison or toxin that damages the intestine's lining and results in hemorrhagic colitis.

Symptoms include severe stomach cramps, bloody diarrhea and a mild fever two to eight days after eating contaminated food. Anyone with those symptoms should contact their physician.

Most people recover from the illness within two weeks. In a very small number of cases, the E. coli toxin results in a serious, sometimes fatal complication, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This kidney failure is especially dangerous to young children, the chronically ill and the elderly.

For more information on safe food handling and preparation, contact Whitmore in Edmonton at 427-2412, or any Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
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June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Pack food safety too

When taking meals to the field, the potluck dish to the 4-H supper or any meals to go, don't forget to pack food safety along too say two Alberta Agriculture food and nutrition specialists.

"While it's always important to handle and prepare foods safely, once you leave the advantages of your kitchen, particularly the refrigerator, you really must be extra careful and pay special attention," says Aileen Whitmore.

"Temperature may be the most critical factor," adds Linda St. Onge. "The basic rule of thumb is to keep cold foods cold and hot food hot." After 20 minutes at room temperature bacteria begin to grow. After two hours of sitting at room temperature, there could be a serious problem.

Keeping cold foods cold is a challenge of summer they say. Thoroughly chill fresh foods before packing, and don't, they emphasize, expect the impossible from a cooler. "Coolers are made to keep foods cool, not to make them cool. Choose a good cooler and use it properly," says Whitmore.

Coolers should be well insulated, form a tight seal when closed and have a rust-proof interior. Vinyl insulated bags and styrofoam ice chests are fine for short periods such as an hour or two, but aren't recommended for longer time periods.

Prechill coolers before packing by filling with ice or ice water and allowing it to stand for an hour. To keep foods cool, put a layer of ice on the bottom and pack ice blocks around foods. "Edible freezer packs" such as frozen juice boxes make the most of cooler space. Since the bottom of the cooler is coldest, pack perishable foods there and eat them first. For best cooling, leave room for air to circulate inside the cooler. If your meal will be near a lake or stream, use a water-proof hamper and put it in the water, or find a shady place for the cooler. Open the cooler only when necessary.

St. Onge says one of the most common questions asked about picnic food is about salads and mayonnaise. "There's a common misconception that if the mayonnaise hasn't been added to the salad, then there's no problem with how the salad is stored.

(Cont'd)

Pack food safety too (cont'd)

"But, harmful bacteria prefer a low acid environment such as meat, eggs, dairy products and vegetables. However, mayonnaise is acidic and helps prevent bacteria growth. Its extra moisture though, does promote bacteria growth. What this all means, is that with or without the mayonnaise your potato, meat, fish or pasta salad still must be kept cold."

Food safety does start before you pack up your picnic they say. Always handle food carefully, making sure hands, utensils and work surfaces are clean. Prevent cross-contamination by cleaning cutting boards between uses and not putting cooked meat on a plate that was used for the raw meat.

For more information about handling and preparing food safely, contact Whitmore or St. Onge in Edmonton at 427-2412, or any Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
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Linda St. Onge
427-2412

June 17, 1991
For immediate release

4-H Horsearama'91 July 2-3 in Vermilion

A unique, challenging and eye-opening event for 4-H light horse members and their parents will be held in Vermilion July 2 and 3.

Horsearama'91 is a two-day program with a new format of exhibiting 4-H light horse club members' skills says Yvonne Love, northeast regional 4-H specialist. "Horsearama puts the emphasis on the member's horse project skills in a participatory rather than competitive light."

Over 80 4-Hers from the Vermilion and Stettler 4-H regions are expected to take part in the pilot program event she says.

Love says the idea for this type of program came from many sources. The planning committee included volunteer 4-H leaders and 4-H branch staff. "We didn't have to sell the idea to the 4-H leaders and members," she adds, "They were very positive about this unique program."

Horsearama will challenge members at hands-on skill stations, select-a-stations and riding skills. Hands-on skills include showmanship, health check, handling, grooming, saddling and trail. In select-a-station members can use their project knowledge such as conformation judging. Western, English and bareback riding patterns are another part of the program. 4-Hers can also put together a freestyle, or kur, pattern with musical accompaniment. Gymkhana and musical rides events will add an entertainment flavor for parents and other spectators.

Love says the program format will be similar to presentations during Showcase'92 one of the events planned to celebrate the Alberta 4-H movement's 75th anniversary.

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Doug Norman
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Henry Wiegman
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June 17, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PROGRESSIVE PRODUCTION, HERDSMANSHIP AND LEADERSHIP AWARDED AT PORK CONGRESS

A progressive pork producer, a pork industry herdsman and a pork industry leader were honored during the annual Alberta Pork Congress in Red Deer. Jerry and Alice Van Braak and family of Lethbridge were named the 1991 progressive pork producers. The Van Braaks have a 130 sow farrow-to-finish operation on their diversified farm. The 1991 herdsman award went to Josh Haitel, who currently manages a 150 sow farrow-to-finish operation in Neerlandia. The successful operation owned by C.J. Wiergenga Farms produces 22.5 pigs per sow that are marketed at 160 days with an average index over 108. John Bowland, former dean of forestry and agriculture at the University of Alberta, received the industry leadership award. Bowland's research in energy, protein, mineral, vitamin and feed additives have contributed to swine production. The annual Alberta Pork Congress also includes a trade show, swine show and educational seminars. For more information, contact Pat Kennedy at 340-5307.

4-HERS RAISE FUNDS FOR STARS

The Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) was beneficiary of more than $3,000 from the sale of a donated steer and yearling ewe by Calgary region 4-H clubs. The market steer was donated by the Irricana 4-H Beef and Multi Club and the ewe lamb by the Foothills Sheep Club. Both animals were auctioned during the Calgary region's 16th annual 4-H on Parade program in early June. The 1160 pound steer was bought by the Calgary and Exhibition and Stampede for $2.40 per pound for a total of $2,784. Chub Foster of Millarville paid $3.50 per pound for the 101 pound ewe lamb, bringing in a total of $353. In total the clubs raised $3,137. For more information, contact Christine Erichsen in Airdrie at 948-8510.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

RAPESEED CONGRESS'91 IN SASKATOON JULY 9-11

Rapeseed in a changing world is the theme of an international meeting July 9 through 11 in Saskatoon. The Rapeseed Congress is the meeting of the Groupe Consultatif International de Recherche sur le Colza (GCIRC) which is headquartered in Paris, France. The congress will focus on new developments in the international rapeseed and Canadian canola industries. Delegates can attend workshops on agronomy, diseases, breeding and analytical chemistry as well as review over 400 technical papers in seven research areas of the rapeseed and canola industry. The GCIRC was established to promote development of rapeseed and its products through technological and scientific research and to encourage collaboration among industry researchers. For more information, contact Dr. Milton Bell, president of the GCIRC, at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon at (306)966-4130.

PUREBRED BEEF BREEDER NAMED FARMER OF THE YEAR BY SPCA

A Morinville cattleman was named the first winner of the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's Farmer of the Year award. Bill Gonek, a purebred Charolais breeder, has been a cattleman for 30 years. "It's not that I'm out there petting my animals everyday, but I do make sure they're clean and have plenty of water," he says. "It's just good husbandry. I don't do anything really that special." Gonek says one of the things that may have impressed the SPCA are his calving facilities with closed circuit cameras set up to watch expectant mothers. He's used this "calving channel" for the last dozen years. Gonek says he considers his award-winning animal management practices as fairly standard in the livestock business. "Remember, we have to make our living off these animals, so why wouldn't we treat them good?" he asks. "Common-sense management is my basic guideline." For more information, contact Ken Aylesworth, general manager of the Canadian Charolais Association, in Calgary at 250-9242.

AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 24, 1991
For immediate release

Overwhelming response to farm safety "key" campaign

Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program has received over 2,500 responses from school children to its unlock a safe 1991 campaign, and the responses are still coming in.

"We're overwhelmed," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, the program's manager, of the mailed-in responses. "We've named 110 contest winners, but are considering some additional prizes because of the tremendous number of children who have participated."

The contest is part of a farm safety campaign launched in March. The "your key to unlocking a safe 1991" campaign revolves around a key-shaped sticker with the message "Leaving? Take me Too!". John Deere Limited is Alberta Agriculture's partner in the campaign encouraging farmers and machinery operators to shut off their equipment before making repairs.

Stickers were distributed to grade one through six students at rural schools by local members of the Alberta Women's Institutes (AWI). Children were asked to take the sticker home and put it on an appropriate piece of equipment, then fill out and send back the contest entry form telling where they'd placed the safety reminder.

"A vast majority of the children did place it on a tractor," says Kyeremanteng. Other popular places for the sticker were combines, swathers, augers and riding tractor lawn mowers.

"We're very hopeful this approach--reaching parents through their children--will have a significant safety dividend. We're also certain the safety message has been reinforced in the children," he says.

The safety campaign targeted equipment shut down because 32 per cent of all farm injury accidents in last 13 years have occurred during repair and maintenance work. Farm machinery is the most common agent involved in fatalities and injuries on the farm. "This campaign focused on a very common sense idea, shut down equipment before you make a repair," says Kyeremanteng.

(Cont'd)

Overwhelming response to farm safety "key" campaign (cont'd)

He adds the campaign's success wouldn't have been possible without support from John Deere Limited and the AWI. "John Deere Limited's initial enthusiasm and financial support through to providing the John Deere toys for the contest winners has made the campaign possible. The AWI members who went to schools across the province were the carriers of the message, and we wouldn't have had this volume of response without their efforts and support."

Contest winners have been announced on Alberta Agriculture's "Call of the Land" radio show over the past two weeks. (**Editor's note**: The complete list of winners follows.)

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

Your key to unlocking safe 1991—campaign winners

(Toys supplied by campaign sponsor John Deere)

FIRST PRIZE (11) — Radio control tractor

Blaine Stone . . . . . Westerose, 586-2363
Kerry Koch . . . . . Berwyn
Megan Sargent . . . . . Wainwright, 842-2185
Anna Lea Irving . . . . . Huxley, 442-2285
Michael Knapik . . . . . Bow Island
Shalene Slywka . . . . . Elk Point
Richard Hallett . . . . . Carstairs, 337-2469
Ernie Scarlett . . . . . Cherhill
Chris Brown . . . . . Legal
Candice Zorn . . . . . Medicine Hat, 832-2138
Deanne Wilson . . . . . New Brigden

SECOND PRIZE (11) — Farm set

Ryker Rowbotham . . . . . Oyen, 379-2108
Brandon Slocum . . . . . Cochrane, 932-2951
Nicole Gabert . . . . . Fort Saskatchewan, 998-1963
Tammy Quast . . . . . Drayton Valley
Travis Dronyk . . . . . Torrington
Michelle Harris . . . . . Viking
Clinton Whitson . . . . . Alcomdale, 934-2764
Shane Van Wisnbergen . . . . . Wabamun
Jillian Stickel . . . . . Hanna, 854-3554
Jeffery Wagner . . . . . Duffield, 731-2250
Kody Ramstad . . . . . Stettler

THIRD PRIZE (36) — Front end loader

Pamela Tompkins . . . . . Ponoka, 783-8166
Suzanne Trofwenlao . . . . . Iron Springs, 738-4618
Johnathan Troutman . . . . . Spruce Grove
Lindsey Van Es . . . . . Calgary
Danny Thiessen . . . . . Grimshaw
Clay Thiessen . . . . . Coutts
Shianna Barclay . . . . . Erskine, 742-5916
Monica Ostapovich . . . . . Smoky Lake
Courtney Strang . . . . . Newbrook, 576-3324
Kristen Jones . . . . . Westerose
Stacy Smart . . . . . Mannville
Pam Hodgkinson . . . . . Elnora
Niki Wideman . . . . . Camrose, 672-7143
Samantha Lien . . . . . Lougheed
Cheryl Dixon . . . . . Onoway
Pamela Trofanenko . . . . . Turin
James Smith . . . . . Olds
Philip Fandrick . . . . . Elkwater, 893-2410
Danielle Payne . . . . . Cardston
Jenni Mohr . . . . . Provost
Clinton Rude . . . . . Sedalia, 326-2215
Erin Machacek . . . . . Vulcan
Jason & Justin Louis . . . . . Hobbema
Jesse Charlton . . . . . Czar
Christopher Holloway . . . . . Castor
Tabitha Turko . . . . . Waskatenau
Darren Vos . . . . . Condor
Warren Strem . . . . . Eckville
Travis Dowhan . . . . . Radway
Christopher Kolenosky . . . . . Thorhild
Stephanie Dunbar . . . . . Irma
Randy Dimitrukowich . . . . . Peace River
Sara Beesman . . . . . Trochu, 442-2290
Roxann Miller . . . . . Chinook
Kari Koistenen . . . . . Abee
Sara Pasay . . . . . Egremont

FOURTH PRIZE (41) — Row crop tractor

Tanya Regner . . . . . Newbrook, 398-2365
Jennifer O'Shaughnessy . . . . . Rimbey
Rachel Murray . . . . . Mountain View
Justin Friesen . . . . . Millarville
Michael Verbitsky . . . . . Leduc
Corey Kluthe . . . . . St. Albert
Sandra Walker . . . . . Veteran
Josh Towpich . . . . . Bashaw, 372-2526
Jacob Feniak . . . . . Warspite
Branden Tye . . . . . New Brigden
Peter Schmidt . . . . . Kingman
Nichole Hertz . . . . . Oyen
Darcy Schlichenmayer . . . . . Torrington, 631-2463
Shane R. Neel . . . . . Alberta Beach
Jillian Shenfield . . . . . Spruce Grove, 962-5315
Natasha Taphorn . . . . . Busby, 967-2754

Amber Ayotte . . . . . Redwater
Adam Klassen . . . . . Beaumont
Daniel Urban . . . . . Riviere Que Barre, 967-2815
Daryl Lachance . . . . . Vimy
Dustin Kulyk . . . . . Buffalo
Randi Heie . . . . . Kingman, 672-6913
Jenny & Kevin Block . . . . . Didsbury
Fraser Mills . . . . . Bowden, 224-3993
Virginia Portman . . . . . Gwynne
Jennifer Henderson . . . . . Lacombe
Candace Dingwall . . . . . Rocky Rapids, 542-4617
Corrina Bodin . . . . . Orion
Cordel Griffith . . . . . Cessford
Vanetta Berry . . . . . Calahoo
Nicole Nemecek . . . . . Picture Butte
Michael Waddy . . . . . Alix
Blaine Bolze . . . . . Penhold
Kristy Storms . . . . . Ohaton
Andrea Barrack . . . . . Cereal
Mandy Bennett . . . . . Taber, 223-8005
Ryan Miller . . . . . Dalemead
Carla Schenk . . . . . Metiskow
Melonie Grills . . . . . Alhambra, 729-2016
Kevin McLeod . . . . . Carmangay
Tom Stahl . . . . . Hughenden

FIFTH PRIZE (11) — Farm safety knapsacks

Kenny Campbell . . . . . Delburne
Charmaine Westerlund . . . . . Esther, 664-2235
Laura Bodell . . . . . Sherwood Park
Albert Tschetter . . . . . Hardisty
Amanda Edlund . . . . . Burdett
B.J. Gurba . . . . . Waskatenau
John Drowther . . . . . Peers
Brenda Follandy . . . . . Sundre
Trevor Feldberg . . . . . Wetaskiwin
Glen Hansen . . . . . Innisfail
Brett Horner . . . . . Pollockville

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For immediate release

Poison plants can threaten livestock

Noxious weeds that can cause sickness and death in livestock have flourished along with crops and pastures with the last few wet weeks, so farmers should check their pastures for those weeds says an Alberta Agriculture analytical toxicologist.

"Wet conditions in much of the province allow cattle to uproot plants and their eat roots, which is often the most toxic part of the plant," says Roy Smith. "While only a handful of plant species are harmful, every year the toxicology laboratory finds evidence of plant poisons in connection with multiple cattle deaths."

Three plants in particular are very dangerous to cattle he notes. They are death camas, water hemlock and larkspur.

"Death camas has already caused cattle losses in the province this year," he says. The plant has grass-like leaves and an onion-like bulb. It grows in meadows and on hill sides. The entire plant is toxic, but its poison is mostly in its bulb.

DEATH CAMAS

The white camas has a very similar appearance but is much less dangerous. "Casual nibbling on this plant won't likely result in cattle deaths," he notes. As well, the white camas is usually found in a moister environment, somewhere that's wet every year. "If producers need to distinguish between the two, they can contact their local district agriculturist," he adds.

Water hemlock is another plant producers should check for he says. "In most years it's responsible for more cattle losses than any other plant in Alberta."

As its name implies, water hemlock likes water and grows on the banks of creeks, sloughs and other low areas. It can grow several feet high and has toothed leaflets. As with the death camas, its roots are its most toxic part.

(Cont'd)

Poison plants can threaten livestock (cont'd)

"If a suspected water hemlock is pulled out of the ground and the root is cut open, the root will be hollow with several chambers (see diagram). Only water hemlock has these chambers that are full of a bright yellow oil containing the toxin," says Smith.

WATER HEMLOCK

The third plant to keep a close watch for is the larkspur. Its name comes from the usually blue flower that resembles the foot of a lark with a distinct spur on the back of the flower.

"Not all larkspurs are dangerous," says Smith. "All cases of poisoning in Western Canada involve only two species, and both contain the same alkaloid known as MLA."

LARKSPUR

Although larkspurs should never be fed to cattle, only those containing MLA are dangerous in a pasture where ample alternate feed is available. Smith advises having plants analyzed if farmers have a concern about larkspur in their pasture.

Other plants can be involved in cattle poisoning he notes. These include lupins, arrowgrass, stinkweed and monkshoods. "Large amounts of these plants must be eaten to cause death. Since a dead cow can put a producer $1,000 or more out of pocket, it makes economic sense to have plants checked if producers have concerns or doubts."

For more information about toxic plants, or to have plants suspected of causing problems analyzed, contact Alberta Agriculture's Toxicology Laboratory, 6th Floor, O.S. Longman Building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2 or call 427-2270.

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Contact: Dr. Roy Smith
427-2270

June 24, 1991
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Pork producers, FTA winners in countervail case

The conclusion of the long, complicated U.S. pork countervail case will have important short and long term impacts on the Canadian pork industry says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

In the short term, collection of the duties should end this month or in July. Eventually, an estimated $20 million in countervailing duties will be refunded to Canadian pork exporters says Ron Gietz.

The long term implications of the decision are more important Gietz says. "Export markets are essential to the long term health and growth of the Canadian pork industry as Canada currently produces more than domestic requirements. The U.S. is our closest and most attractive export market, and unhampered access to that market is vital.

"With the elimination of countervailing duties on pork, exports are expected to gradually return to pre-duty levels, to the benefit of the Canadian pork industry."

Two years after the duties were put in place, the June 14 unanimous ruling by a panel of judges effectively closed the pork countervail case. Their ruling was in response to an "extraordinary challenge" by the U.S. government of a previous free trade panel decision that duties should be removed.

This was the first time the "extraordinary challenge" provision of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was tested. As its name suggests, the extraordinary challenge isn't intended for routine appeals of panel decisions, but as a safeguard.

"The three judges ruled emphatically that the U.S. complaint didn't meet the standards of an extraordinary challenge as set forth in the free trade agreement," says Gietz.

With this ruling, the earlier free trade panel decision stands and the U.S. government must refund duties collected from Canadian pork exports since September 1989.

(Cont'd)

Pork producers, FTA winners in countervail case (cont'd)

Gietz says the only other options available to the U.S. are a constitutional challenge of the free trade agreement itself, or launching a completely new countervailing duty case. "Either event is extremely unlikely," he says.

Adds Nithi Govindasmay, assistant director of Alberta Agriculture's trade policy secretariat, "The ruling in Canada's favor was a victory, but it's also a victory for the free trade agreement's processes. The binational dispute settlement system has been thoroughly tested and vindicated."

The Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation called the ruling a relief for Alberta producers. "Our industry has had this unjust duty hanging over its head for two years," says chairman Jim Smith. "We appreciate the efforts of all those involved in obtaining its removal and seeing justice done." He added the decision "confirms our belief that the mechanisms of the FTA are working properly".

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

Nithi Govindasmay
427-2637

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Management style key to keeping swine stockpeople

People, not pigs, are more likely to be the reason an employee leaves a swine operation Alberta Pork Congress participants heard during an educational seminar.

That message came from both sides of the Atlantic. Distance separates British and Alberta pork producers, but they share common frustrations and challenges in finding, hiring and keeping stockpeople seminar participants were told by congress speakers.

Feature guest speaker, Bernard Peet, of the National Agricultural Centre (NAC) pig unit in Britain quoted a two-year old Scottish study where management style and attitude of other people on the farm topped the list--at 24 per cent--of why stockpeople left a job. Farther down the list were the work itself at 12 per cent, the farm environment, 10 per cent, welfare of the pigs, six per cent, and performance of the farm, six per cent. Promotions and pay were at the bottom of the survey at 4.5 and 3.5 per cent respectively.

While those survey results point to better management style and employer-employee relationships as critical, Peet also says the swine industry needs to improve its profile, so more people will be interested in it. His strategies include talking to young school children, taking part at career conventions, providing effective promotional material about careers in pigs, developing a career structure, offering more training opportunities and improving farm conditions.

These would overcome some of the recruiting difficulties swine producers face with their public image. "We're really an industrial and urban society, certainly in Europe, rather than a farming based society. Very few people have contact with or knowledge about intensive farming, so they really don't understand what it's about and therefore have misconceptions about it," he says.

Russ Ayers-Berry, an Alberta swine producer and consultant, says without people skills a pork operation is like a three-wheeled cart: it moves if dragged along, but isn't running that well. The three wheel approach is cousin to a hiring a "warm body".

(Cont'd)

Management style key to keeping swine stockpeople (cont'd)

"We got by on if he's warm and he can walk, we'll hire him," he says of his company's early hiring practices. In that sense, what kind of employee you have is in the hands of the employer, he says, whether you want a hired man or a skilled, trained herdsman. And like Peet, he says improving the image of farm employment is up to the industry, but he adds, it can start on individual farms.

Ayers-Berry emphasizes the competition with other industry for workers, by pointing out the relative affluence of central Alberta. To attract and keep employees in that competitive atmosphere he advocates 10 golden rules for better communications and motivation. His "rules" mirrored Peet's suggestions for keeping employees. Among their recommendations to increase job satisfaction and retain employees are: equitable employee benefit packages with holidays; job descriptions and training; communication by identifying farm goals and regular evaluation with corresponding pay raises.

Central Alberta producer Al Elliott expanded on the payroll element with examples of how stockpeople at three central Alberta swine farms are paid. He showed examples of straight salary versus a system with production bonuses that included extras such as subsidized housing and vehicle use.

He says the biggest problem employers have isn't in feeding, medicating or choosing stock, but how the job gets done. "People and people's attitudes is where it's at," he says. He adds producers put more dollars in their pocket by paying bonuses. In his operation he saw a dramatic change just from the change of the employee and his farm went from producing 17 pigs per sow to 23.2.

Both Peet and Ayers-Berry said training is less of a problem than getting and keeping staff. They described parallels in education systems with universities, colleges and practical localized training available here and in Britain. The local training in Britain is from agricultural training boards, and in Alberta from the Green Certificate program.

The "pigs and people" panel also included Doug Taylor, of Alberta Agriculture, who gave an overview of the Green Certificate Program.

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Provincial 4-H dairy, beef heifer shows in July spotlight

Two long time provincial 4-H livestock shows will attract 4-Hers from across Alberta this July.

The provincial 4-H dairy show celebrates its 45th anniversary in 1991. "That's not the only special anniversary we're celebrating," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H livestock specialist. "The dairy show is held in conjunction with Westerner Days in Red Deer which are 100 years old this year."

The two-day dairy event starts July 19 with judging, show ring judging and clipping competitions. Showmanship and conformation classes will be the next day.

Jack Haynes and Dave Chalack will be the senior showmanship and conformation judges respectively for the competition.

Along with their individual competitions, each club will accumulate points for the dairy herd class competition and herdsmanship (stall) competition. Cherhill's Twilite Dairy Club has won the club herdsmanship award for the last two years.

In 1990 over 70 4-Hers from 11 dairy clubs took part at the provincial show.

While the provincial 4-H beef heifer show's history isn't as long--this year is its 15th anniversary--it does attract a substantial number of participants. "Last year we had over 140 4-H members at the show," says Wiegman, "and we're expecting to have a high attendance again in 1991."

Bashaw Agricultural Grounds are the location for the beef heifer show starting on July 14 and running through July 16. Activities begin on Sunday with a team grooming competition. The second day begins with an extensive judging competition. Members must judge three classes of beef animals, give oral reasons for their placings and write a short quiz.

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Provincial 4-H dairy, beef heifer shows in July spotlight (cont'd)

The show includes special freshman classes for members making their first appearance at the provincial heifer show. Junior and senior freshman classes are judged on both the member's showmanship skills and the heifer's conformation.

Yearling, two-year old and three-year old purebred, crossbred and recorded crossbred conformation classes are all part of the conformation competition. Supreme grand and reserve grand champion purebred and crossbred females will be determined. Making that decision will be Rob Young of Spruce Grove, along with junior conformation judge Tova Place. Place, of Nanton, won the 1990 provincial heifer show judging competition.

Two of the shows major sponsors are Shur-Gain and Alberta Treasury Branches.

For more information about either provincial show, contact Wiegman at Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

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Agri-News briefs

BRETON PLOTS FIELD DAY JULY 5

Sustainable agriculture through alternative cropping is the theme of the 1991 Breton Plots field day on July 5. Speakers from the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture will discuss crop diversity, and agronomic and economic considerations. Weather permitting, plot tours will be held in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided. The university's department of soil science has done experimental work at the plot's Luvisolic soils for the past 62 years. Breton is located about 100 miles southwest of Edmonton. For more information, contact Jim Robertson at 492-3242 or 492-0191.

TOUR GRAIN ELEVATOR VIA VIDEO

While Prairie grain elevators may be something we see every day, not many of us know what goes on inside one. If you're curious, there's a new video available through Alberta Agriculture's Central Film Library to show you around an elevator. "The Inside Story" (Agdex 304-2) is aimed at school-aged children, but it will also interest an older viewer. There's also a summary set to rap music. For lending information, write the film library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR WINTER WHEAT COMMISSION DIRECTORS

Nominations for directors of the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission are open until August 30. Any eligible producer may nominate another eligible winter wheat producer for their region's director. Elections will take place during September and October. The new directors will replace the provisional directors now serving on the commission. For a nomination form, or more information, contact the commission office in Lethbridge at 328-0059.

RIDE WAVES OF CHANGE IN BOOK, ON VIDEO

Advanced technology, new management styles, market fluctuations and

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

RIDE WAVES OF CHANGE IN BOOK, ON VIDEO (cont'd)

changing employee values are some of the waves of future change York University professor Gareth Morgan discusses in a book and a summary video. Doug Barlund, management specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, recommends Morgan's book to "anyone who wishes to gain a better understanding of how to become more proactive and skilled in dealing with the managerial turbulence that lies ahead". In the 1989 book, **Riding the Waves of Change, Developing Managerial Competencies for a Turbulent World**, Morgan says running a business without looking at the future is like driving a car without using the rear view mirror. This future orientation includes what Morgan calls "reading the environment" to see major forces and trends, or waves of change. A 25 minute video is part of the package available through Alberta Agriculture's Central Film Library. For loan information, write the film library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

SWINE BREEDING SALE HAS HIGHER PRICES IN '91

This year's swine stock breeding sale during the Alberta Pork Congress put more dollars in the pockets of breeders than in 1990. The average price of 75 head sold was $517, up from $462 last year says Art Lange of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch. Lange, chairman of the congress swine committee, says prices reflected the very high quality stock at the 1991 show. Another contributing factor to the increase was a delegation of Mexican buyers who purchased about a dozen of the sale swine. The top seller in 1991 also fetched a much higher price, more than double than last year's $1,025. The champion Yorkshire boar was sold by Reiter Farms of Iron Springs to Ralph Hoefer of Armstrong, B.C. for $2,500. "The champion Yorkshire gilt also went for an exceptional price, $1,750," he adds. For more information, contact Lange in Edmonton at 427-5319.

CARCASSES PROFIT PRODUCERS AND CHARITIES

The annual ballroom carcass sale during the recent Alberta Pork Congress yielded the top 10 producers a tidy profit and helped out Red Deer area and

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

CARCASSES PROFIT PRODUCERS AND CHARITIES (cont'd)

other charities. The best 10 carcasses were determined from a time limited competition to produce a barrow to market weight and measure production success by its carcass. Carcasses are judged on their index, loin eye, carcass visual quality and the barrow's average daily gain. The 10 winning carcasses sold for an average of $1,660. Buyers in turn donated the carcass to a variety of charities including the Red Deer food bank, womens' shelter, Salvation Army, Horizon School and Barrhead Hospital. Kieftenbeld Farms of Riviere Qui Barre produced the top carcass. It was purchased by Gainers for $2,750 and donated to Big Brothers and Sisters of Red Deer. For more information, contact Art Lange in Edmonton at 427-5319.

FARM ENTERPRIZE MANUAL AVAILABLE

A reference manual with management information about eight major Alberta farm enterprises is now available from Alberta Agriculture. Compiled by the farm business management branch and printed by Olds College, the manual's sections are designed as a quick basic awareness reference with contacts for further specific expertise. Major factors affecting the profitability of beef, cow/calf and beef feeder, crop, dairy, swine, sheep, horse, beekeeping and poultry enterprises are outlined. The "Alberta Farm Enterprise Manual" also has sections on irrigation, machinery and agricultural resources. Formerly called the "Agricultural Lenders Manual", the reference guide is reprinted annually as a reference for a five day farm lenders course. Anyone interested in the manual can obtain a copy by sending a $35 cheque payable to Olds College to Cindy Turner, Extension Services, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or call her for more information at 556-8344. For further information, call Craig Edwards at the farm business management branch at 556-4248.